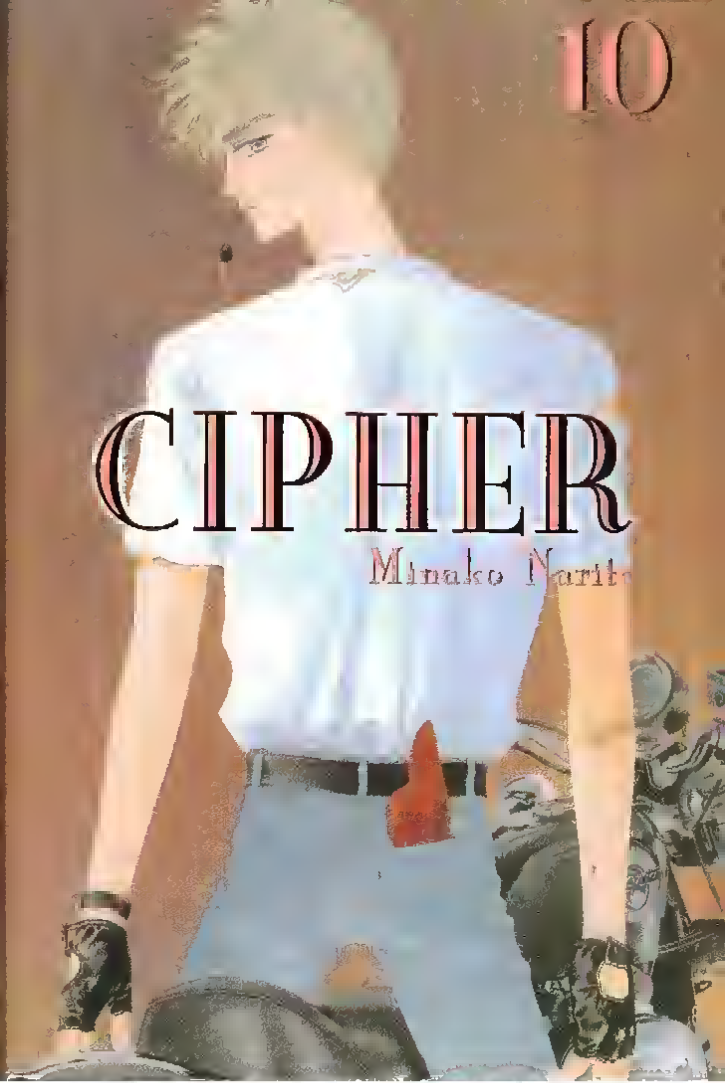

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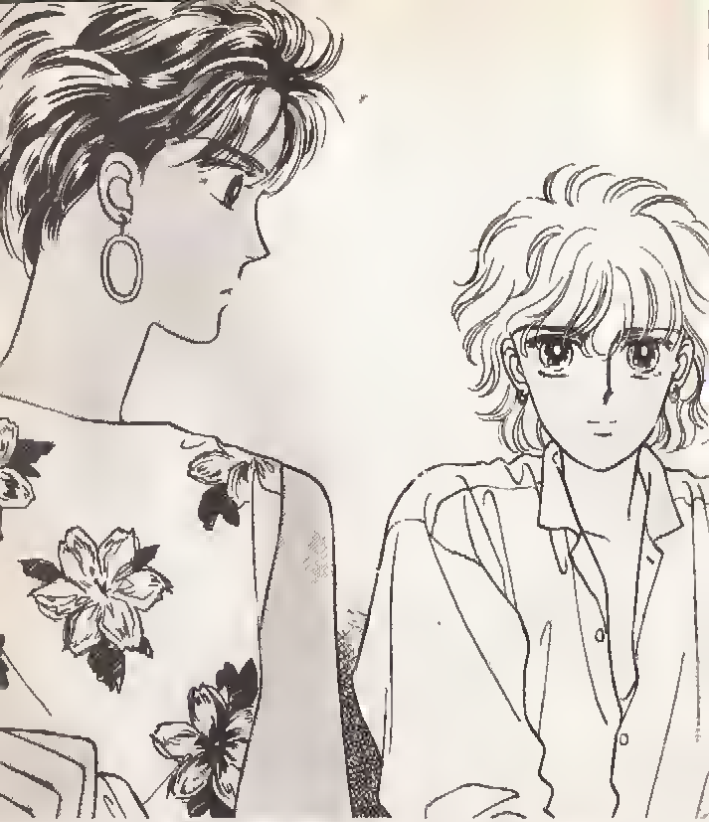

CIPHER

Volume 10 **By Minako Narita**

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On days when he can, Tevine comes to pick up the chick. Otherwise Sava takes it to him.
TWIT
MAN.. YOU LOOK REALLY WORN OUT.
CHEEP? YOU MEAN HIM?
IT'S CHEEP'S FAULT. I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH SLEEP RECENTLY.
THE LITTLE RUNT WAKES UP AT 4:30!
4:30 AM?!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? HE SHOULD SLEEP MORE.
The guy who gets up at 5:30.
...
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
DO IT?
SHUFFLE
He started wearing his glasses because Sava told him to.

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EH?
JOLT
You didn't know that?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HE WAKES UP WHEN IT STARTS GETTING LIGHT.
IF YOU COVER HIM WITH A CLOTH, YOU CAN CONTROL HIS SLEEPING CYCLE.
THANKS, MAN.
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY STAYING, I'LL FEED THE BIRD IN THE MORNING.
YOU GET SOME SLEEP TODAY.
HE'S ASLEEP RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT WAKING HIM UP.
Chilly
RING
HELLO, ALEX? THIS TIME IT'S SUNDAY
WHAT?
Zzz
RING

A COLD RECEPTION

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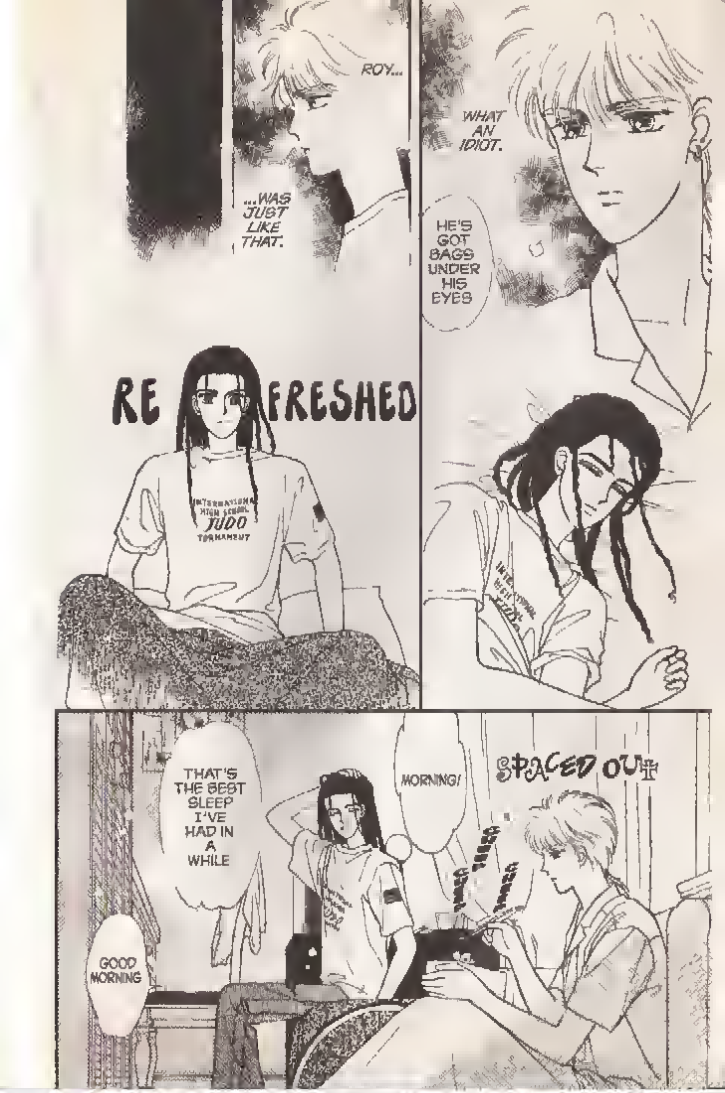

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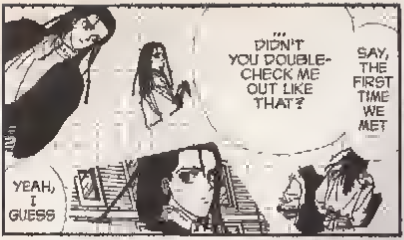

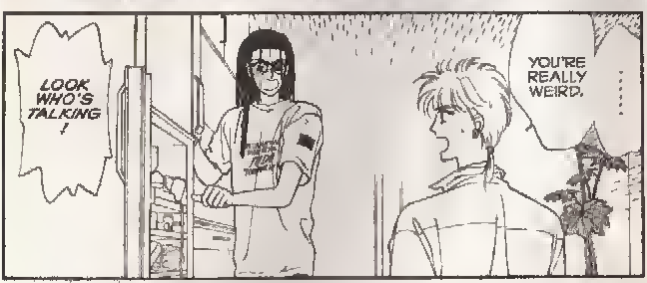

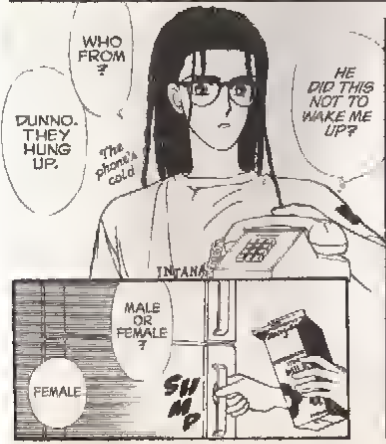

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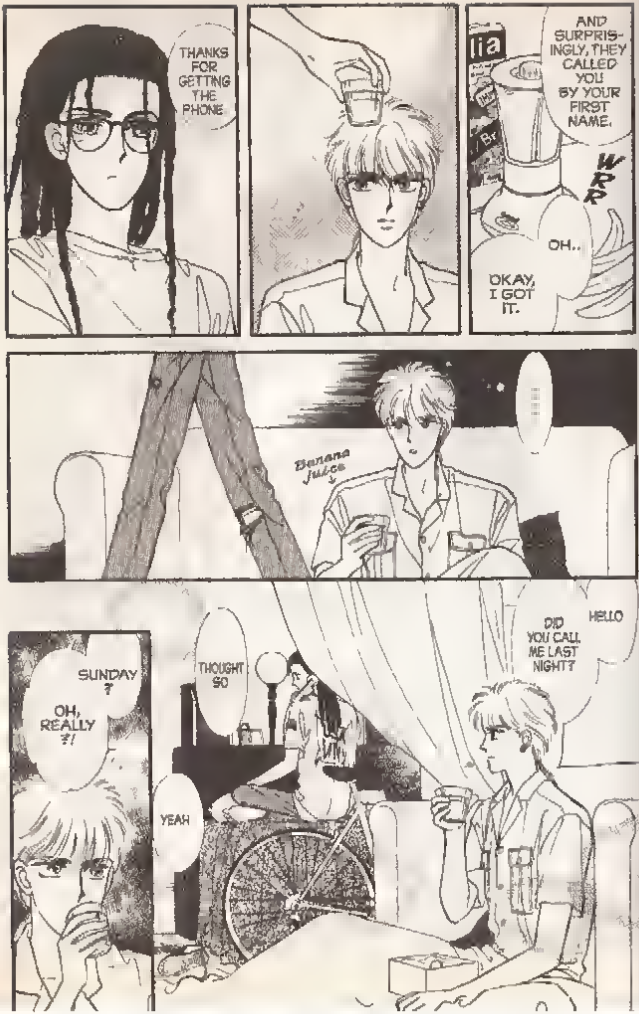

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I FORGOT THAT I HAVE TO GO HOME FOR SOME-THING.
SORRY-- I CAN'T HANG OUT NEXT WEEK
KUK
WHAT IS IT?
OH, OKAY. CAN'T BE HELPED, THEN.
I KNOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT FOR MY SAKE-
UH ...
FLAP
WE'LL MEET UP SOME-WHERE ON SUNDAY.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF CHEEP.

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WELL THEN, SHOW IT WHY DON'T YA?
IT BUGS ME WHEN HE GETS HONEST ALL OF A SUDDEN
I'M..
REALLY DIS-APPOINT-ED
...
SHUP
ROY TOLD ME THE SAME THING.

† Laughing

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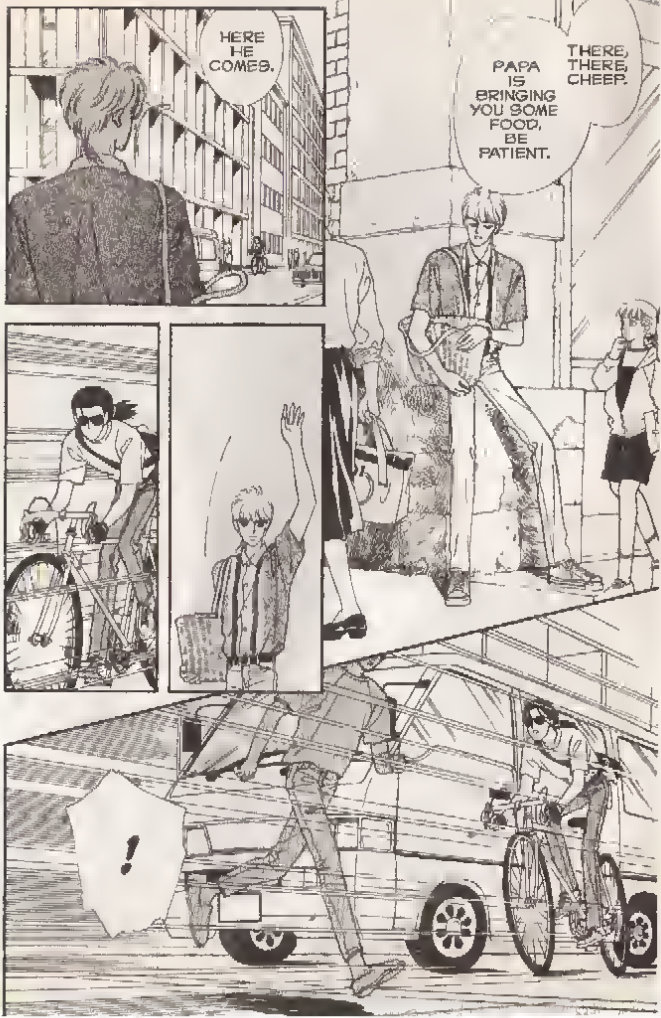

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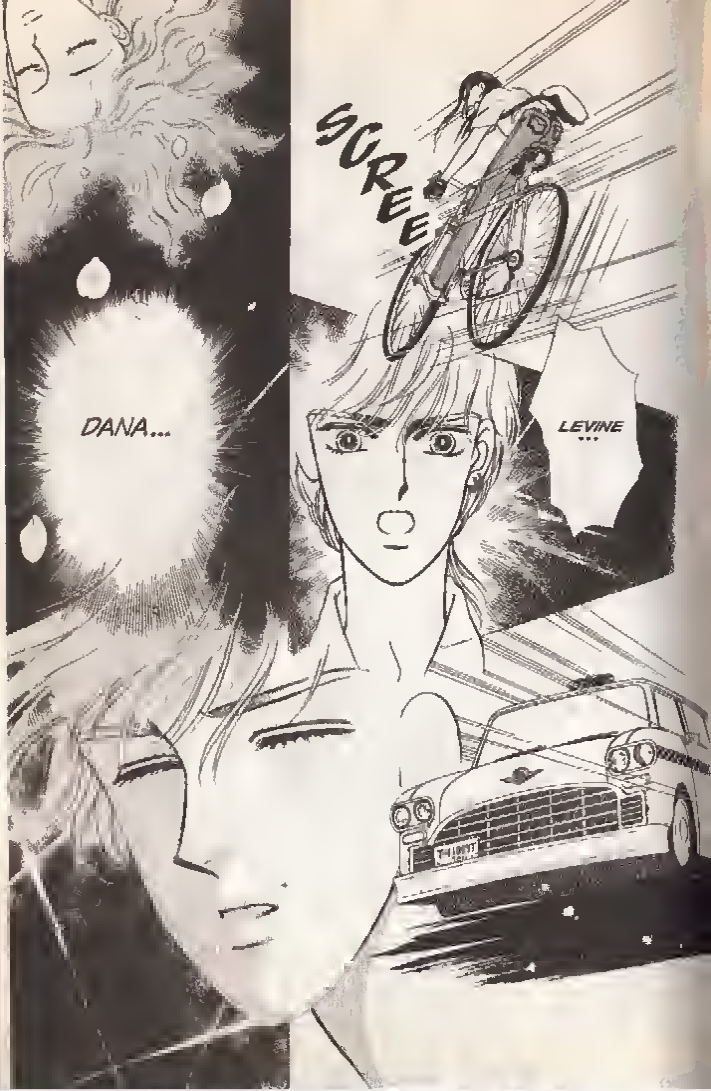

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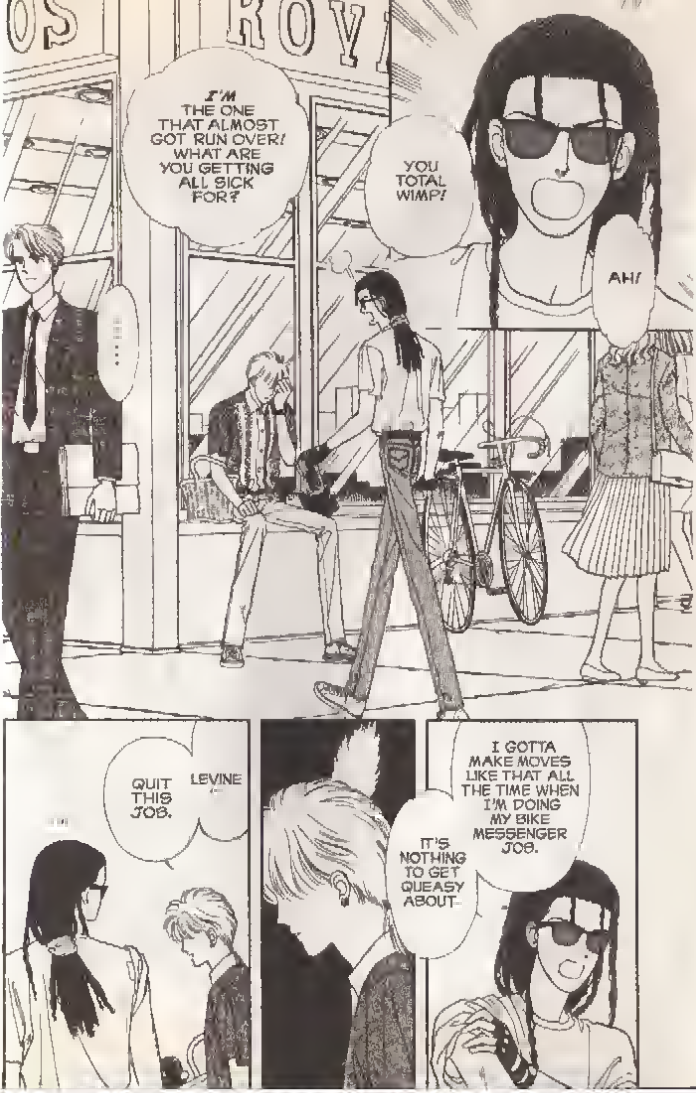
I'M THE ONE THAT ALMOST GOT RUN OVER! WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL SICK FOR?
YOU TOTAL WIMP!
AH!
.....
QUIT THIS JOB.
LEVINE
IT'S NOTHING TO GET QUEASY ABOUT-
I GOTTA MAKE MOVES LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME WHEN I'M DOING MY BIKE MESSENGER JOB.

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IS THIS ABOUT DANA?
PLEASE QUIT IT.
QUIT IT!
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT DON'T WORRY.
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD.
SLAP
HEY, LOOK AT ME!
!
.....

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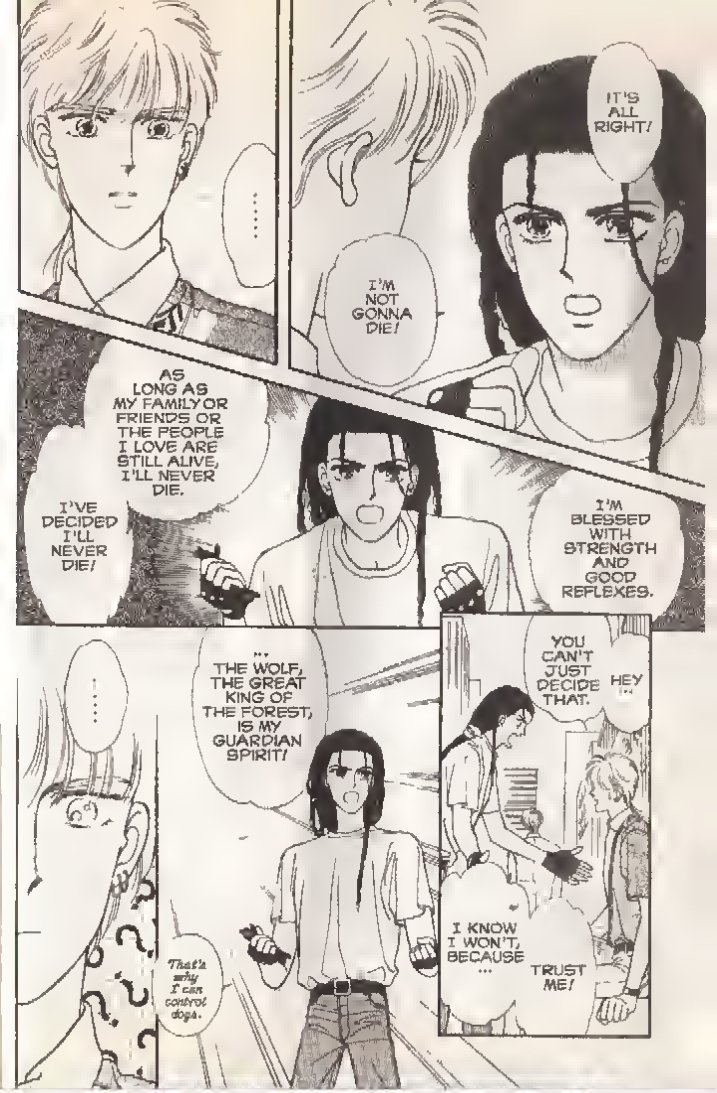
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M NOT GONNA DIE!
.....
AS LONG AS MY FAMILY OR FRIENDS OR THE PEOPLE I LOVE ARE STILL ALIVE, I'LL NEVER DIE.
I'VE DECIDED I'LL NEVER DIE!
I'M BLESSED WITH STRENGTH AND GOOD REFLEXES.
YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE THAT.
HEY...
I KNOW I WON'T, BECAUSE...
TRUST ME!
...THE WOLF, THE GREAT KING OF THE FOREST, IS MY GUARDIAN SPIRIT!
.....
That's why I can control dogs.

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WHY? DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
I WENT CAMPING ALONE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
BACK WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD..
WAIT A SEC.
WOLVES ARE EXTINCT AROUND HERE.
HE STARED AT ME FOR A LONG TIME, AND LEFT WITHOUT ATTACKING.
I MET A WOLF THERE.
IT'S AN OLD RITE OF MANHOOD, YOU IDIOT!
I KNOW IT WAS A WOLF.
NO.
DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE DETAILS
ARE YOU SAYING I MET LASSIE?!
WHAT?!
MAYBE IT WAS A COYOTE, OR-.
UH... NO
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO GET A BITE TO--
.....

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HEY, LEVINE!
YOU'RE A FAN OF SIVA, RIGHT?
BACK WHEN HE WAS A JUNKIE.
HE SAYS HE'S MET SIVA.
.....
HM? WHY?
YOU KNOW THAT BIG GUY WHO JUST JOINED UP?
YEAH, I MET HIM.
IT WAS ABOUT TWO, THREE YEARS AGO.

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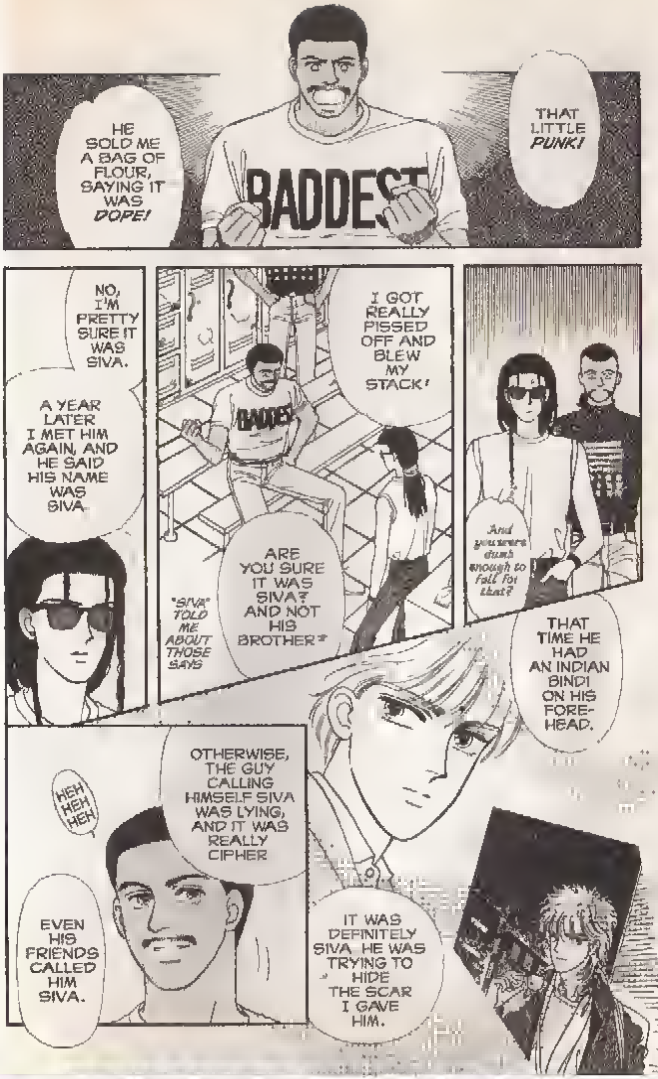
HE SOLD ME A BAG OF FLOUR, SAYING IT WAS DOPE!
BADDEST
THAT LITTLE PUNK!
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS SIVA.
A YEAR LATER I MET HIM AGAIN, AND HE SAID HIS NAME WAS SIVA.
I GOT REALLY PISSED OFF AND BLEW MY STACK!
"SIVA" TOLD ME ABOUT THOSE SAYS
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS SIVA? AND NOT HIS BROTHER?
And you were dumb enough to fall for that?
THAT TIME HE HAD AN INDIAN BINDI ON HIS FOREHEAD.
HEH HEH HEH
OTHERWISE, THE GUY CALLING HIMSELF SIVA WAS LYING, AND IT WAS REALLY CIPHER
EVEN HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM SIVA.
IT WAS DEFINITELY SIVA. HE WAS TRYING TO HIDE THE SCAR I GAVE HIM.

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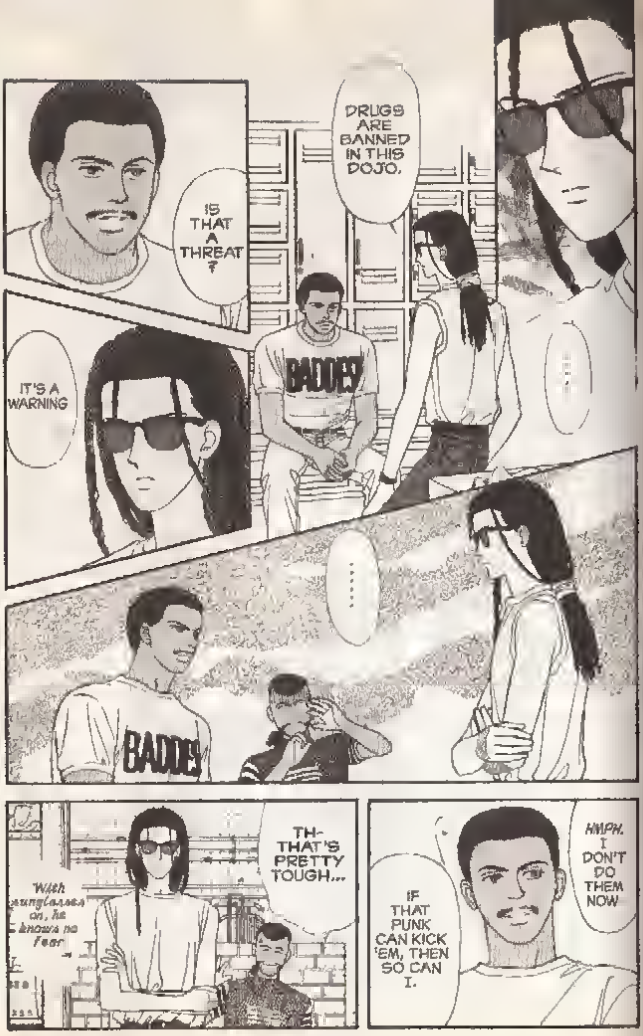
DRUGS ARE BANNED IN THIS DOJO.
IS THAT A THREAT?
IT'S A WARNING
BADDEY
BADDEY
TH-THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH...
With sunglasses on, he knows no fear.
IF THAT PUNK CAN KICK 'EM, THEN SO CAN I.
HMPH. I DON'T DO THEM NOW.

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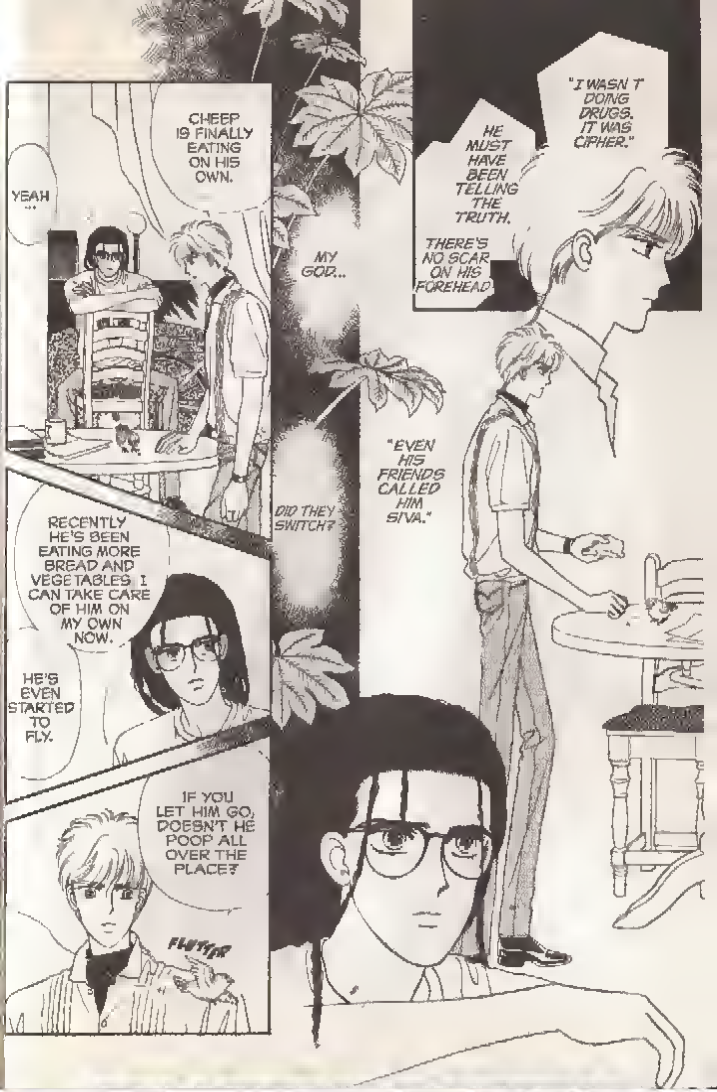
"I WASN'T DOING DRUGS. IT WAS CIPHER."
HE MUST HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH.
THERE'S NO SCAR ON HIS FOREHEAD.
"EVEN HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM SIVA."
CHEEP IS FINALLY EATING ON HIS OWN.
YEAH ...
MY GOD...
DID THEY SWITCH?
RECENTLY HE'S BEEN EATING MORE BREAD AND VEGETABLES. I CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM ON MY OWN NOW.
HE'S EVEN STARTED TO FLY.
IF YOU LET HIM GO, DOESN'T HE POOP ALL OVER THE PLACE?
FLUTTER

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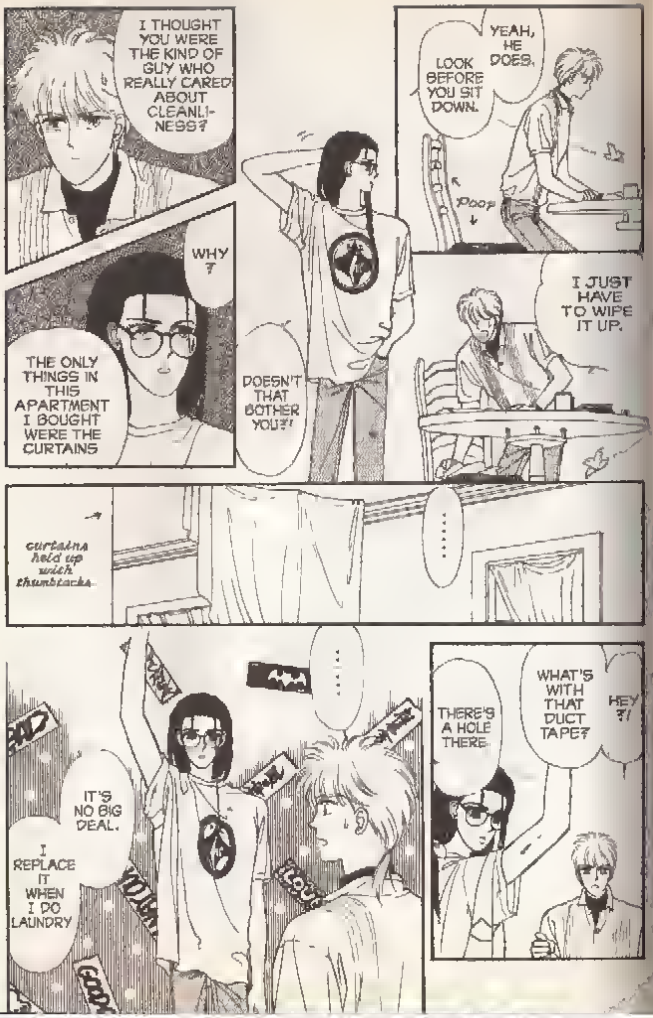
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE KIND OF GUY WHO REALLY CARED ABOUT CLEANLI-NESS?
WHY ?
THE ONLY THINGS IN THIS APARTMENT I BOUGHT WERE THE CURTAINS
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?!
YEAH, HE DOES.
LOOK BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN.
POOF
I JUST HAVE TO WIPE IT UP.
curtains held up with thumbtacks
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
I REPLACE IT WHEN I DO LAUNDRY
THERE'S A HOLE THERE
WHAT'S WITH THAT DUCT TAPE?
HEY ?!

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Especially the complex about your face.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL PSYCHO-LOGICAL IMBALANCES.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SO HOW COME YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES WHEN YOU GO OUT?
BECAUSE THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE THINGS THAT MATCH THIS FACE.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK...
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY.
UH ...
THINK SO?
...YOU REALLY AREN'T MUCH OF A MATERIALIST, ARE YOU?
ARE YOU REALLY THINKING ABOUT LETTING HIM OUT?
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S SPOILING HIM SO MUCH.
OF COURSE.
CHEEP
HUH?
HEY.
DON'T HANDLE HIM TOO MUCH. WE CAN'T LET HIM GET ACCUSTOMED TO HUMANS.

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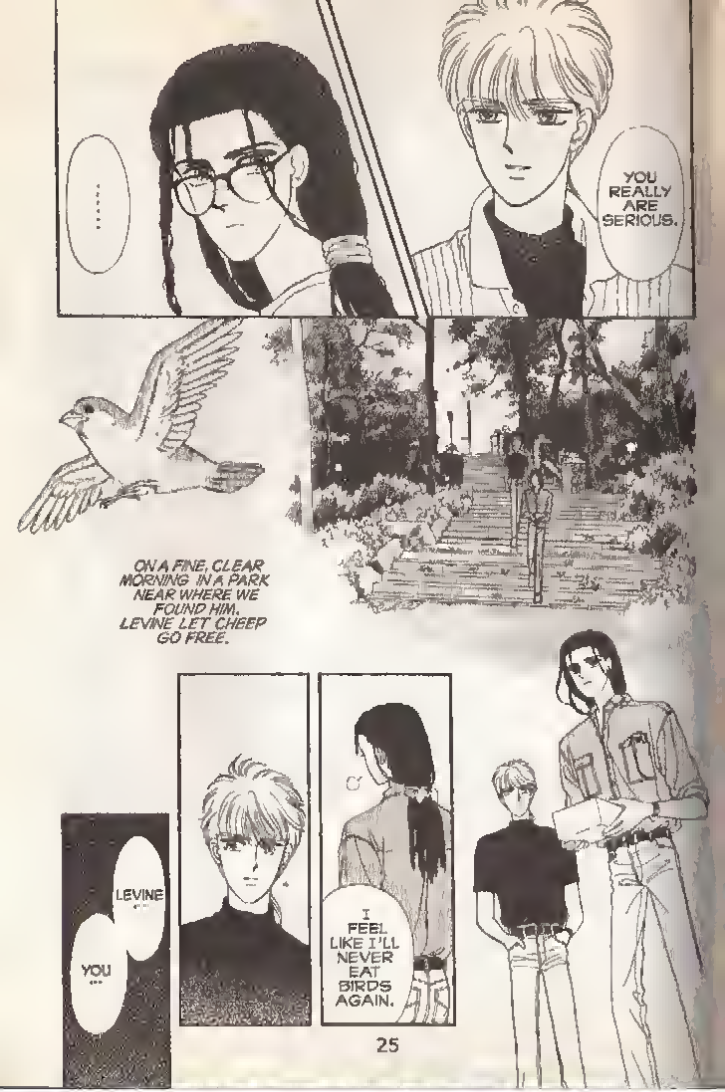
.....
YOU REALLY ARE SERIOUS.
ON A FINE, CLEAR MORNING IN A PARK NEAR WHERE WE FOUND HIM, LEVINE LET CHEEP GO FREE.
LEVINE ...
YOU ...
I FEEL LIKE I'LL NEVER EAT BIRDS AGAIN.

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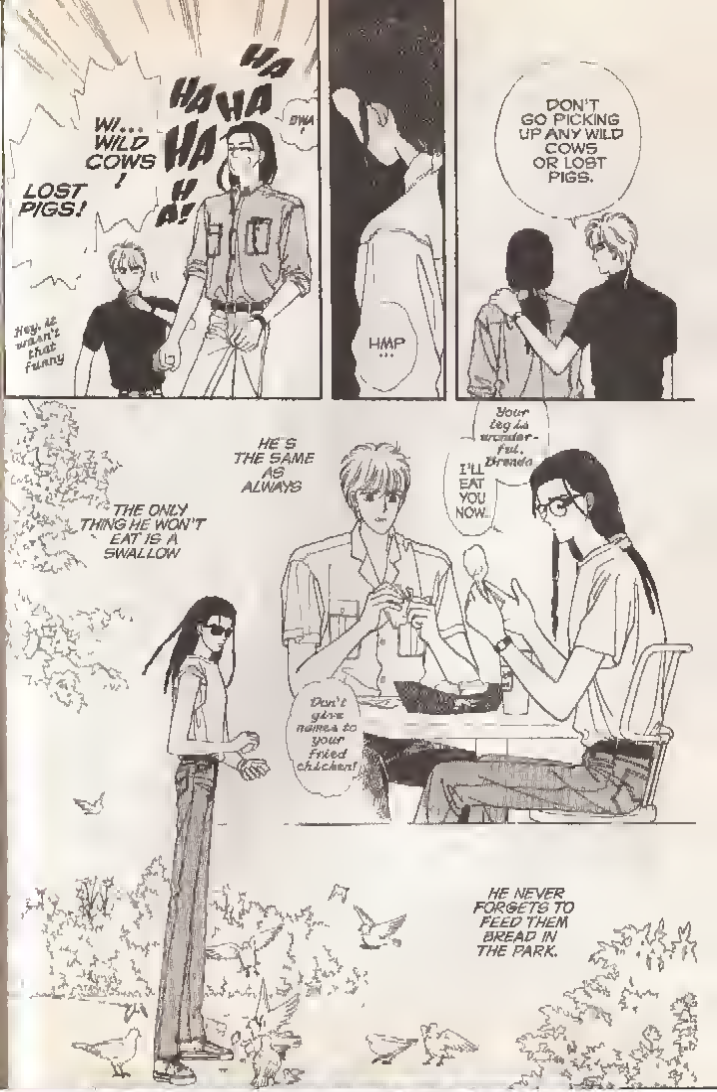
HA HA HA HA!
WI... WILD COWS!
LOST PIGS!
Hey, it wasn't that funny
DON'T GO PICKING UP ANY WILD COWS OR LOST PIGS.
HMP...
HE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS
THE ONLY THING HE WON'T EAT IS A SWALLOW
Your leg is wonderful, Brenda
I'LL EAT YOU NOW.
Don't give names to your fried chicken!
HE NEVER FORGETS TO FEED THEM BREAD IN THE PARK.

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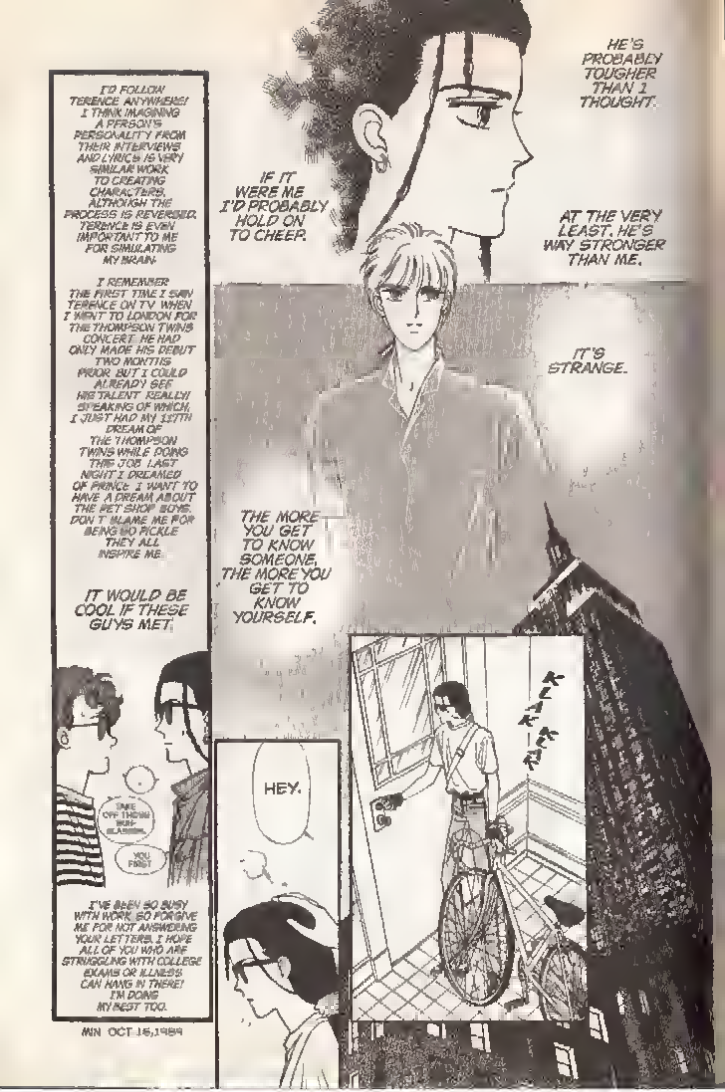
I'D FOLLOW TERENCE ANYWHERE! I THINK IMAGINING A PERSON'S PERSONALITY FROM THEIR INTERVIEWS AND LYRICS IS VERY SIMILAR WORK TO CREATING CHARACTERS, ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS IS REVERSED. TERENCE IS EVEN IMPORTANT TO ME FOR SIMULATING MY BRAIN.
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW TERENCE ON TV WHEN I WENT TO LONDON FOR THE THOMPSON TWINS CONCERT. HE HAD ONLY MADE HIS DEBUT TWO MONTHS PRIOR BUT I COULD ALREADY SEE HIS TALENT. REALLY! SPEAKING OF WHICH, I JUST HAD MY 13TH DREAM OF THE THOMPSON TWINS WHILE DOING THIS JOB. LAST NIGHT I DREAMED OF PRINCE. I WANT TO HAVE A DREAM ABOUT THE PET SHOP BOYS. DON'T BLAME ME FOR BEING SO FICKLE. THEY ALL INSPIRE ME.
IT WOULD BE COOL IF THESE GUYS MET.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK, SO FORGIVE ME FOR NOT ANSWERING YOUR LETTERS. I HOPE ALL OF YOU WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH COLLEGE EXAMS OR ILLNESS CAN HANG IN THERE! I'M DOING MY BEST TOO.
MIN OCT 16,1984
HE'S PROBABLY TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
IF IT WERE ME I'D PROBABLY HOLD ON TO CHEER.
AT THE VERY LEAST, HE'S WAY STRONGER THAN ME.
IT'S STRANGE.
THE MORE YOU GET TO KNOW SOMEONE, THE MORE YOU GET TO KNOW YOURSELF.
TAKE OFF THOSE WEIRD GLASSES.
YOU FIRST
HEY.
KLAK-KA

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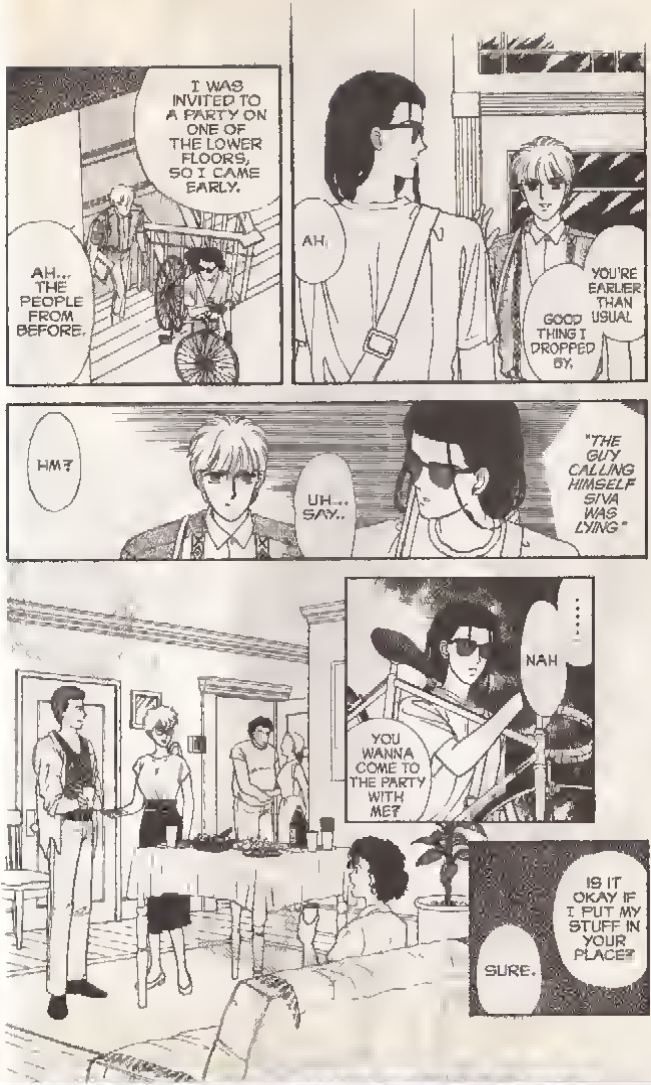
I WAS INVITED TO A PARTY ON ONE OF THE LOWER FLOORS, SO I CAME EARLY.
AH... THE PEOPLE FROM BEFORE.
AH.
YOU'RE EARLIER THAN USUAL
GOOD THING I DROPPED BY.
HM?
UH... SAY..
"THE GUY CALLING HIMSELF SIVA WAS LYING."
NAH
YOU WANNA COME TO THE PARTY WITH ME?
IS IT OKAY IF I PUT MY STUFF IN YOUR PLACE?
SURE.

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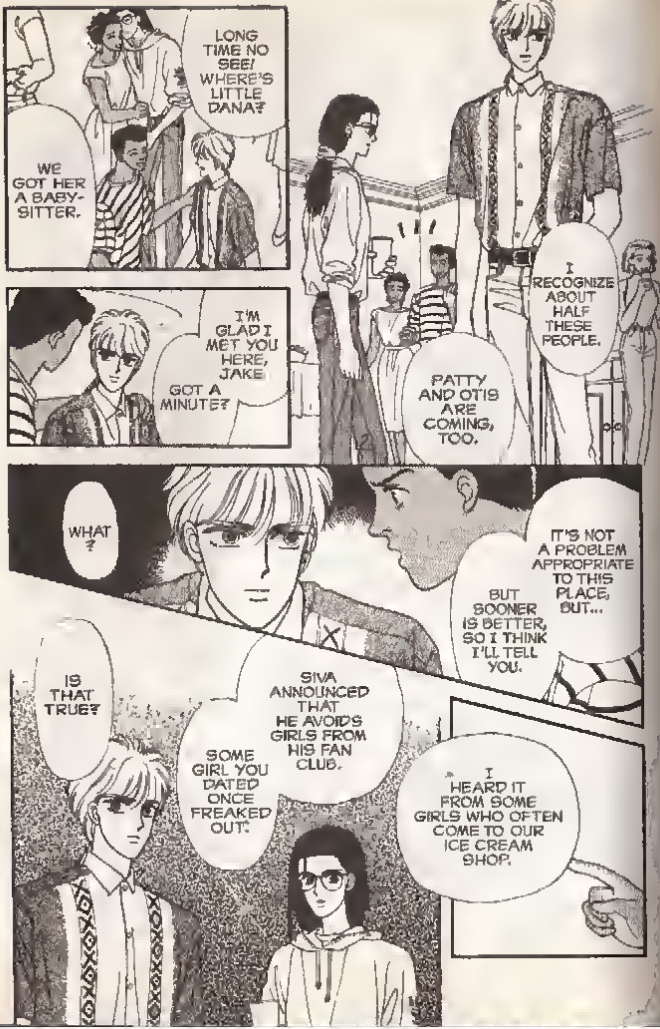
LONG TIME NO SEE! WHERE'S LITTLE DANA?
WE GOT HER A BABY-SITTER.
I'M GLAD I MET YOU HERE, JAKE! GOT A MINUTE?
I RECOGNIZE ABOUT HALF THESE PEOPLE.
PATTY AND OTIS ARE COMING, TOO.
WHAT?
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM APPROPRIATE TO THIS PLACE, BUT...
BUT SOONER IS BETTER, SO I THINK I'LL TELL YOU.
IS THAT TRUE?
SIVA ANNOUNCED THAT HE AVOIDS GIRLS FROM HIS FAN CLUB.
SOME GIRL YOU DATED ONCE FREAKED OUT.
I HEARD IT FROM SOME GIRLS WHO OFTEN COME TO OUR ICE CREAM SHOP.

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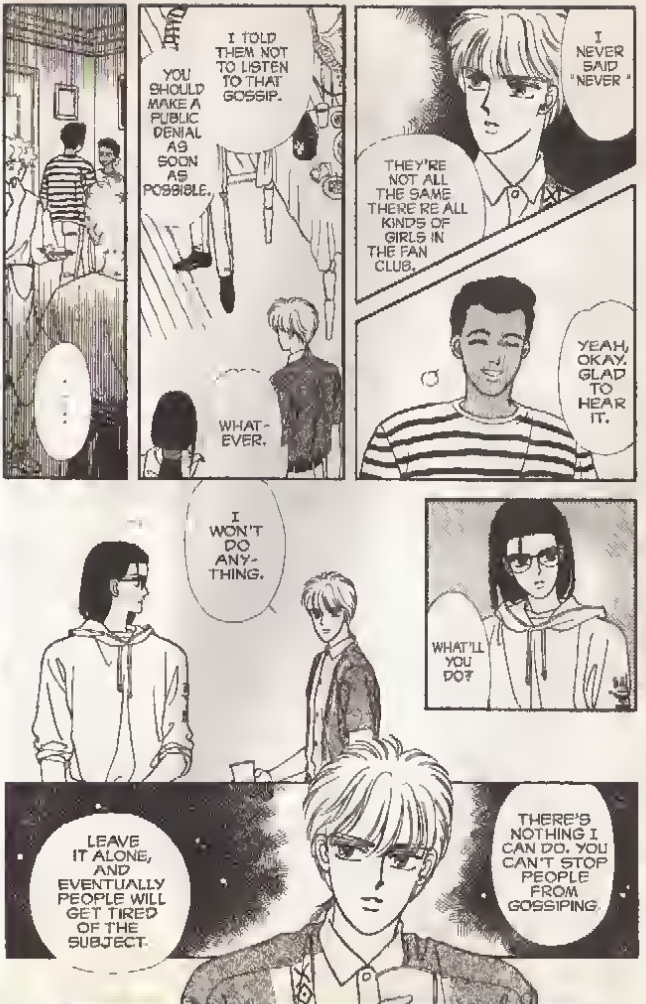
I TOLD THEM NOT TO LISTEN TO THAT GOSSIP.
YOU SHOULD MAKE A PUBLIC DENIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT-EVER.
I NEVER SAID "NEVER."
THEY'RE NOT ALL THE SAME. THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF GIRLS IN THE FAN CLUB.
YEAH, OKAY. GLAD TO HEAR IT.
I WON'T DO ANY-THING.
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
LEAVE IT ALONE, AND EVENTUALLY PEOPLE WILL GET TIRED OF THE SUBJECT.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. YOU CAN'T STOP PEOPLE FROM GOSSIPING.

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SOME GIRLS THINK WE'RE GOING OUT AFTER HAVING MET ME TWICE
I DON'T KNOW WHO.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST FIGURE OUT WHO THE GIRL IS AND CONTACT HER...
WHAT, AND LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW ABOUT IT?
YOU SHOULD DENY IT IN THE PRESS OR SOME-THING!
BUT THE POOR FAN CLUB GIRLS
ALL I SAID WAS THAT 'I'M CAUTIOUS AROUND FAN CLUB GIRLS."
THEN THEY MAKE UP SOME ELABORATE LOVE STORY THEY TELL THEIR FRIENDS.
WAIT!
...!
WON'T HELP, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT LIKE THIS.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU CLEARLY SAY THAT?

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WHY ARE YOU GIVING UP WITHOUT EVEN TRYING?
THAT'S WHAT BUGS ME ABOUT YOU!
IT HAPPENS A LOT. IT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING.
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING I CAN'T AGREE WITH!
NOT EVEN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
!
SO HOW DO YOU THINK A PERSON WHO'S NEVER MET ME CAN UNDERSTAND ?!

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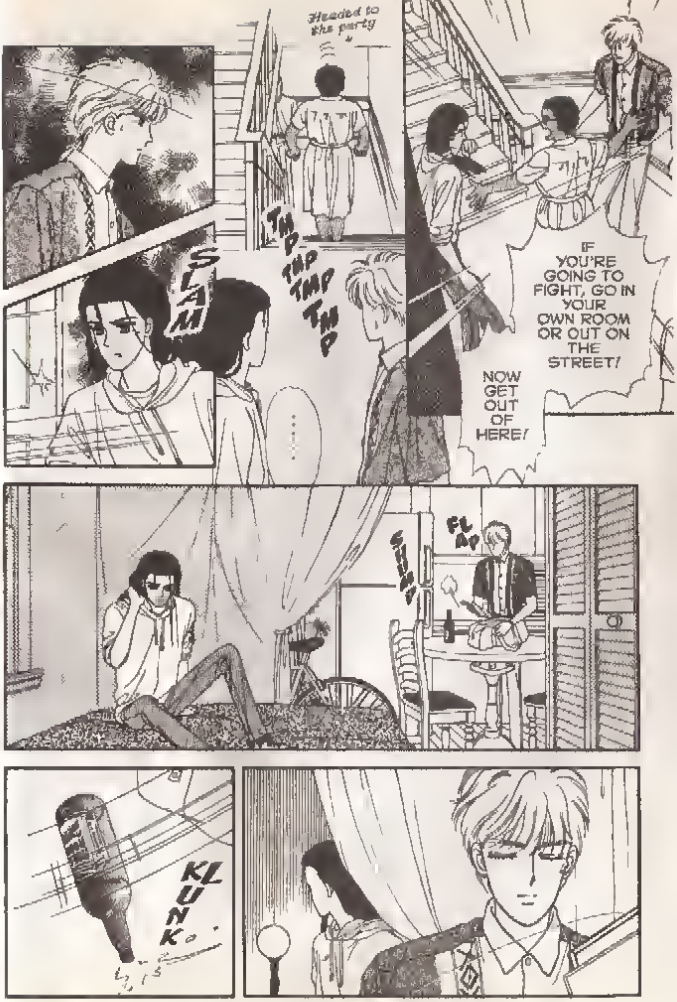
Headed to the party
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
SLAM
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT, GO IN YOUR OWN ROOM OR OUT ON THE STREET!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE!
SLAM
FLAP
KLUNK

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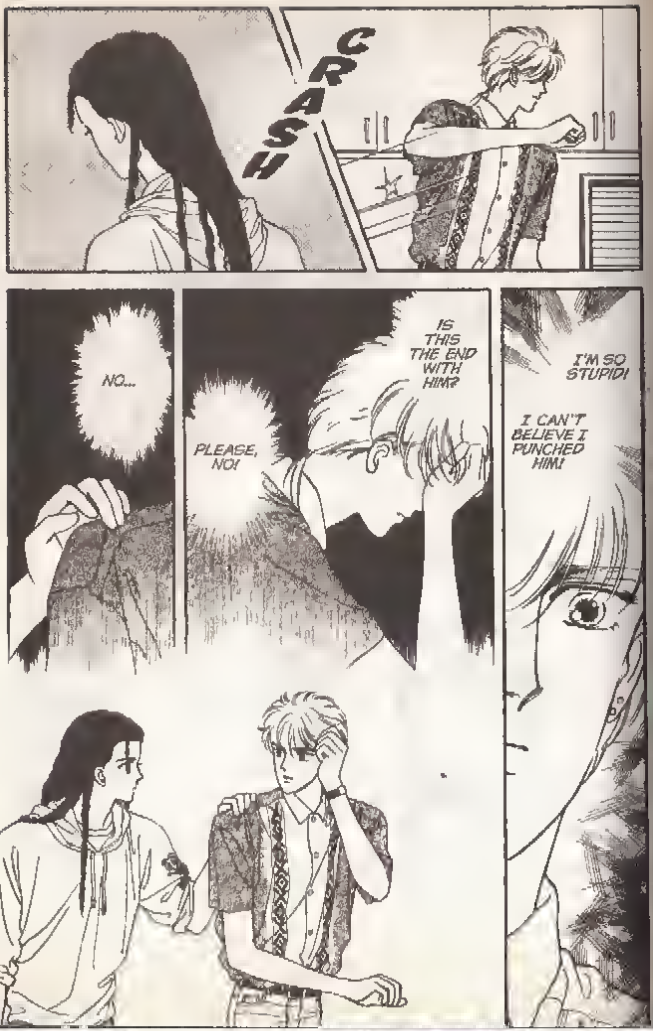

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SORRY I HIT YOU.
IF EVEN ONE PERSON UNDERSTOOD, THAT WOULD BE EASIER...
GASP
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JAKE!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'LL GO RIGHT NOW, SO YOU WAIT HERE AND RELAX!
WE'LL FIGHT A RUMOR WITH A RUMOR!
IS IT OKAY IF WE LEAK IT THAT A FAN CLUB MEMBER IS ONE OF SIVA'S FRIENDS NOW?
THAT THING ABOUT THE GIRL...

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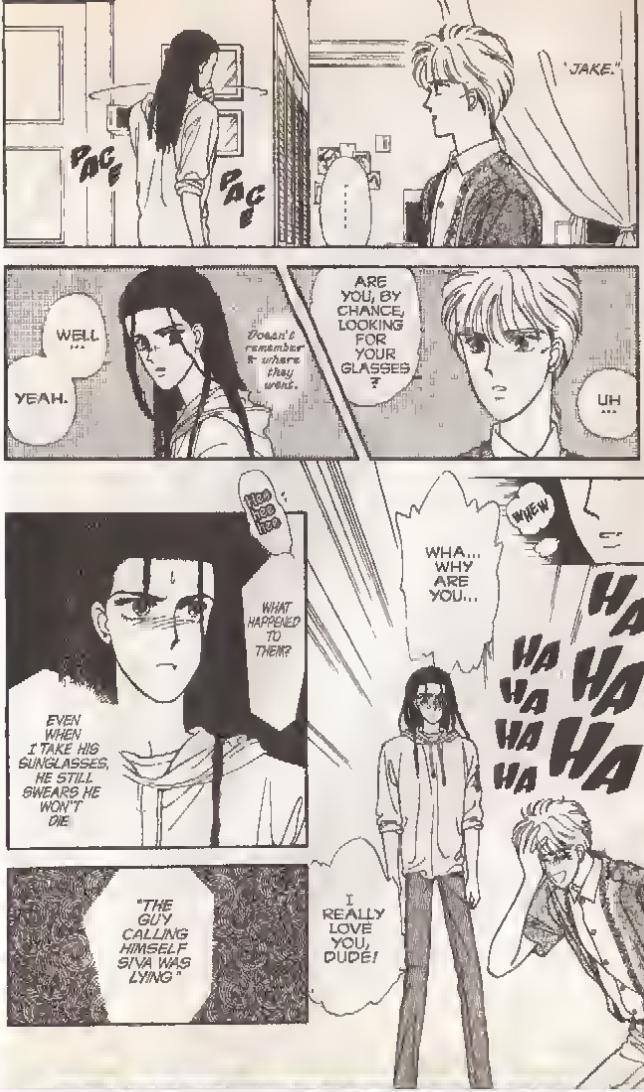

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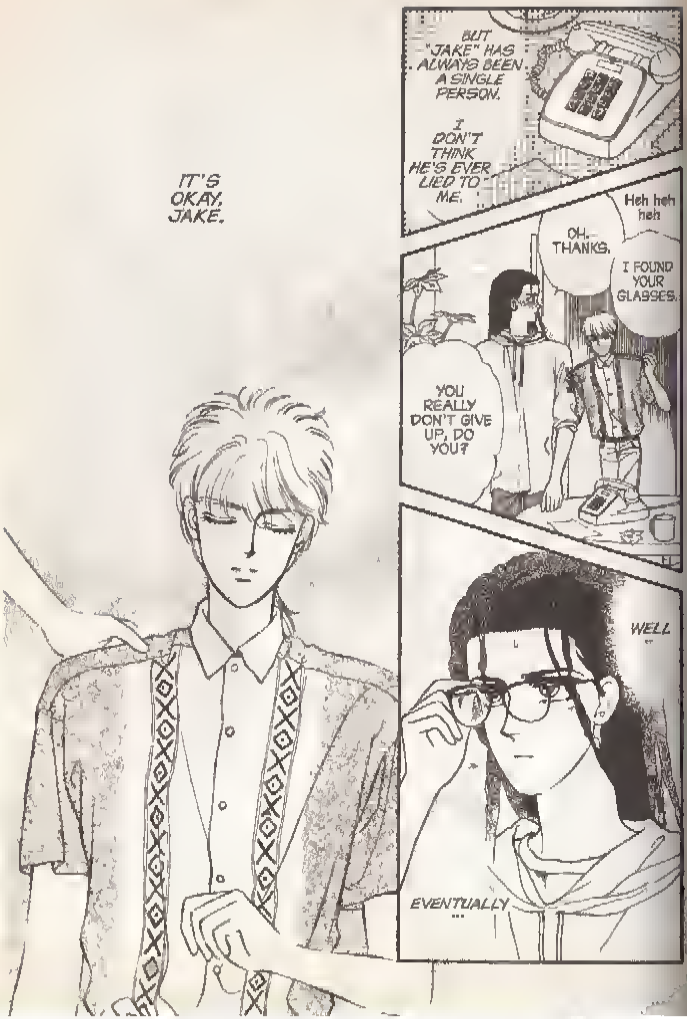
IT'S OKAY, JAKE.
BUT "JAKE" HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SINGLE PERSON.
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVER LIED TO ME.
Heh heh heh
OH— THANKS.
I FOUND YOUR GLASSES.
YOU REALLY DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?
WELL ...
EVENTUALLY ...

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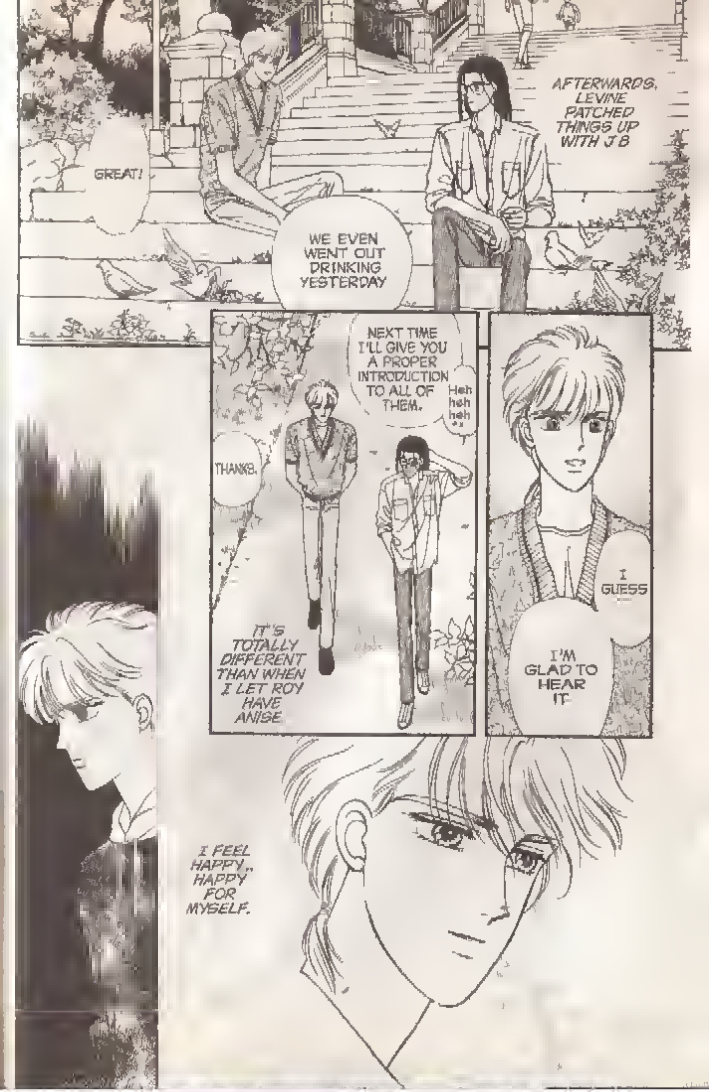
AFTERWARDS, LEVINE PATCHED THINGS UP WITH J B
GREAT!
WE EVEN WENT OUT DRINKING YESTERDAY
NEXT TIME I'LL GIVE YOU A PROPER INTRODUCTION TO ALL OF THEM.
Heh heh heh
THANKS.
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN WHEN I LET ROY HAVE ANISE.
I GUESS
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
I FEEL HAPPY... HAPPY FOR MYSELF.

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I WONDER IF HE HAS FRIENDS LIKE THIS NOW?
EAST SIDE STORY
UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING?
ALL RIGHT?
OKAY!
GOT IT!
GOT IT? I'M COUNTING ON YOU ALL!
OF COURSE WE WON'T BREATHE A WORD TO HIM ABOUT IT!
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE TREATING ROY LIKE AN ORDINARY FRIEND, NOT LIKE SOME STAR.

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BYE. I'LL BE CARE-FUL FROM NOW ON
I'M COUNT ING ON YOU.
WAS IT TO "NEW YORK MOLLY"?
I KNOW HER!
YEAH! HOW'D YOU KNOW?
SORRY, HAL I LET SOME INFO ABOUT ROY SLIP OUT ON THE COMPUTER.
IT WAS HARMLESS STUFF, BUT...
Haven't you got a programming job?
It's summer break!
It's my season! Time to party!
BEEP

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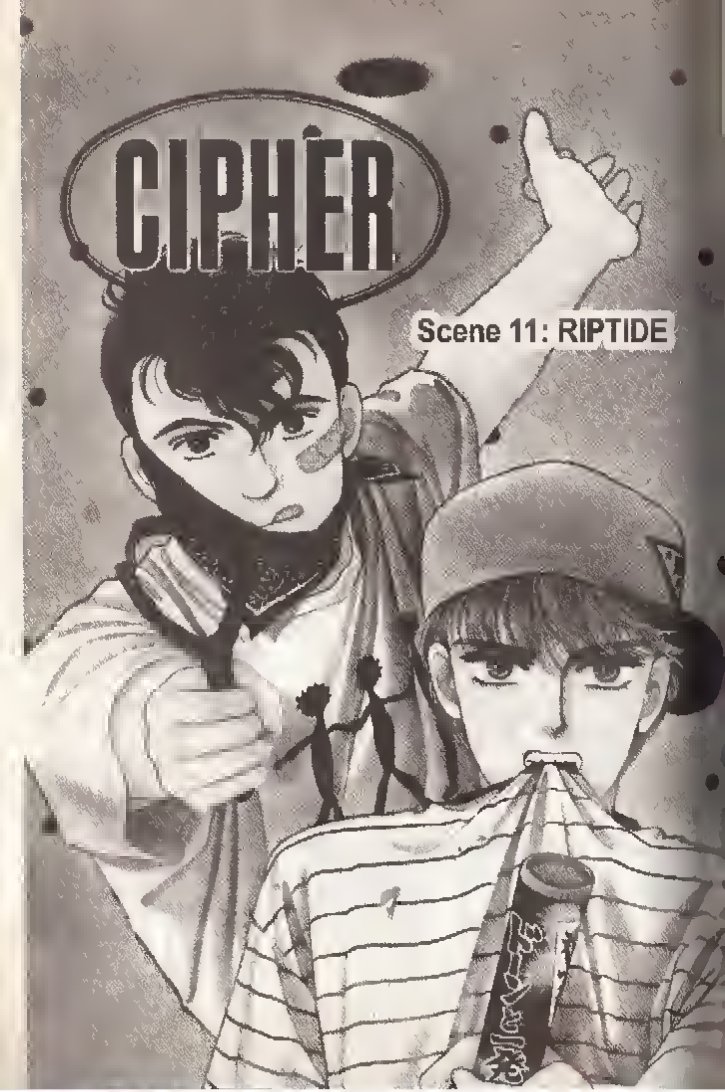

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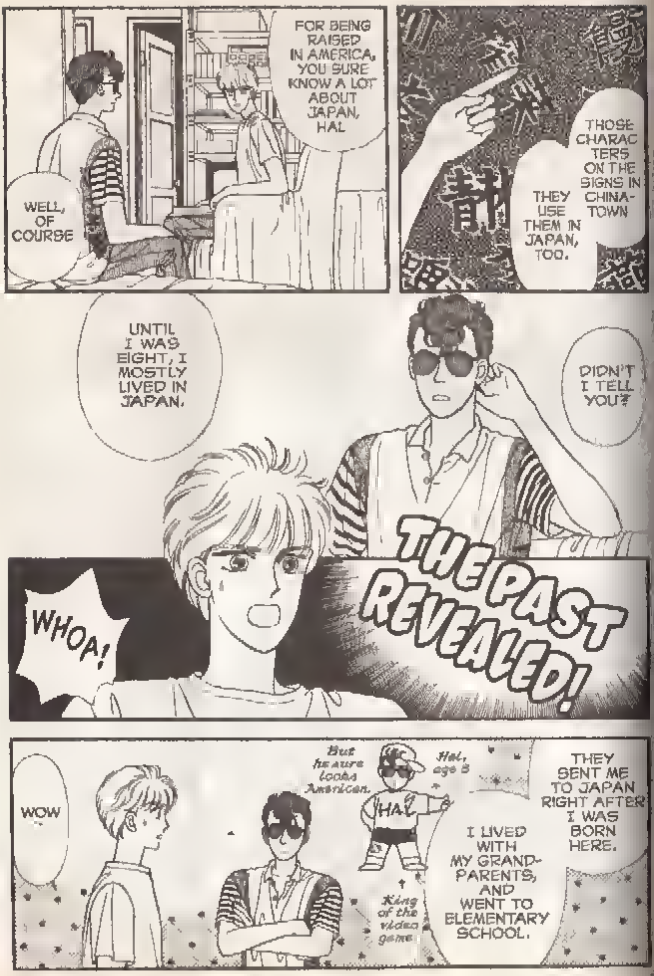
FOR BEING RAISED IN AMERICA, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT JAPAN, HAL
WELL, OF COURSE
THOSE CHARACTERS ON THE SIGNS IN CHINATOWN
THEY USE THEM IN JAPAN, TOO.
UNTIL I WAS EIGHT, I MOSTLY LIVED IN JAPAN.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
WHOA!
THE PAST REVEALED!
WOW
But he sure looks American.
Hal, age 5
HAL
King of the video game!
I LIVED WITH MY GRANDPARENTS, AND WENT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
THEY SENT ME TO JAPAN RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN HERE.

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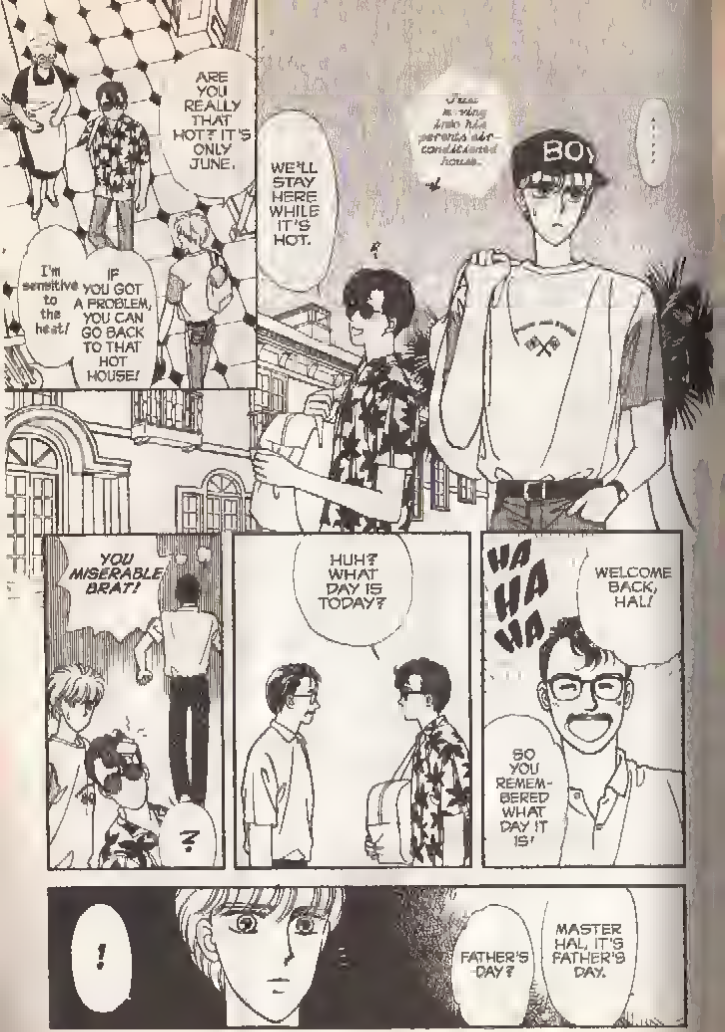
ARE YOU REALLY THAT HOT? IT'S ONLY JUNE.
I'm sensitive to the heat!
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM, YOU CAN GO BACK TO THAT HOT HOUSE!
WE'LL STAY HERE WHILE IT'S HOT.
Just as Yuka's been told, her parents' air-conditioned house...
BOY
YOU MISERABLE BRAT!
?
HUH? WHAT DAY IS TODAY?
HA HA HA
WELCOME BACK, HAL!
SO YOU REMEMBERED WHAT DAY IT IS!
!
FATHER'S DAY?
MASTER HAL, IT'S FATHER'S DAY.

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NO NEED
MY FATHER IS DEAD.
I GUESS YOU'D BETTER CALL HOME, TOO.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHAT HE'S SO MAD ABOUT?
IT'S OKAY.
UH... SORRY, I...
OH!
Hal, come here.
"COME WITH ME, ROY."
I WAS WITH HIM WHEN IT HAPPENED.
OH... YEAH...I REMEMBER SEEING IT ON THE NEWS.
THAT THING IN THE MOUNTAINS!
"COME TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH ME."

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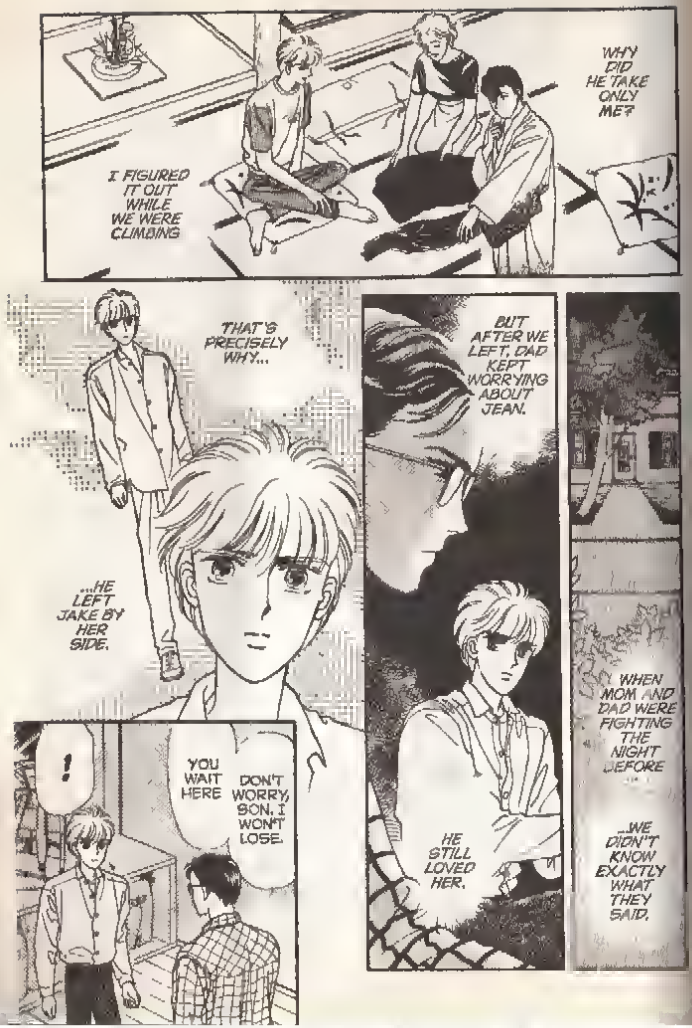
I FIGURED IT OUT WHILE WE WERE CLIMBING
WHY DID HE TAKE ONLY ME?
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...
...HE LEFT JAKE BY HER SIDE.
BUT AFTER WE LEFT, DAD KEPT WORRYING ABOUT JEAN.
HE STILL LOVED HER.
WHEN MOM AND DAD WERE FIGHTING THE NIGHT BEFORE...
...WE DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAID.
!
YOU WAIT HERE
DON'T WORRY, SON. I WON'T LOSE.

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IF I HAD HELD HIM BACK, HE'D BE ALIVE.
EVEN THOUGH I'D ALWAYS FELT THAT..
...I STILL BLAMED EVERYTHING ON JEAN.
JUST REMEMBERING SOMETHING.
ABOUT MY DAD.
YES. SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED.
JUST LIKE I AM NOW!
JEAN ALSO SUFFERED, DIDN'T SHE?
TH... THANKS.
TRY THE AZUKI BEANS.
C'MON, EAT.

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HOW ABOUT WE GO FOR A SWIM?
CHEER UP, DUDE!
JEAN... WHAT IS SHE DOING NOW?
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
COOL!
TURTLE ?!
YOUR FATHER GOT IT ON A BUSINESS TRIP.
MOM, CAN WE USE THE POOL?
NOW? THE TURTLE IS IN THERE.
IT'S A REAL TURTLE!
IT'S HUGE!

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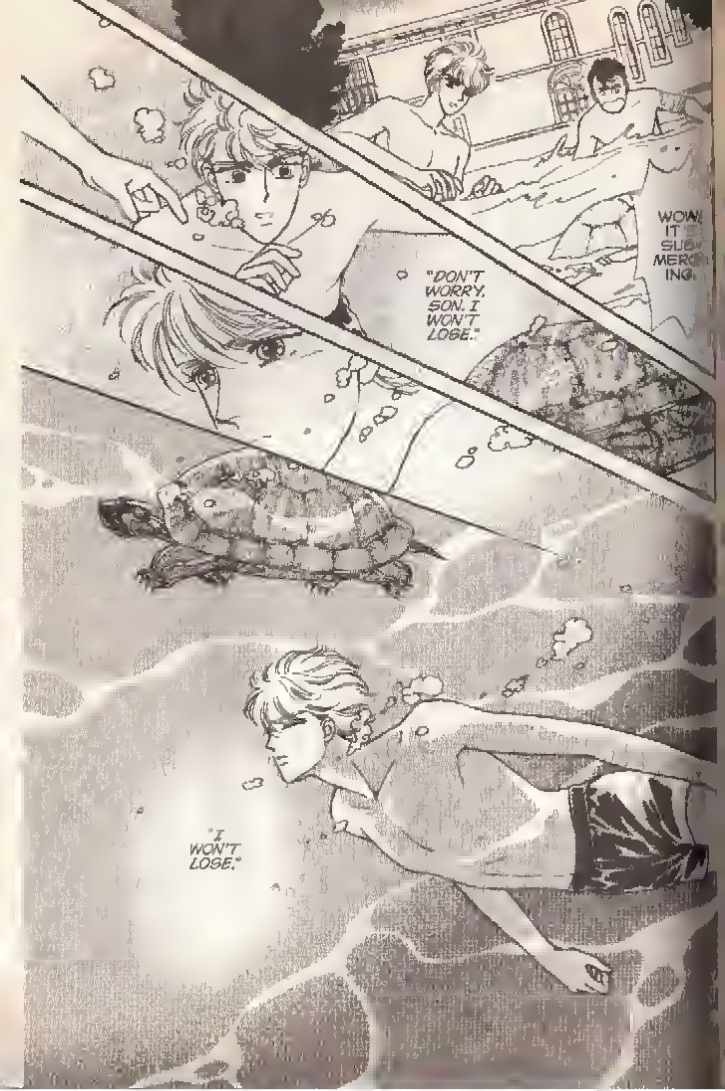

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WHEN HE WEARS THOSE SUNGLASSES, LEVINE IS A TOTAL BADASS.
WHAT'S WITH THAT SHOP-KEEPER'S ATTITUDE?!
I'LL KNOCK THE CRAP OUT OF 'IM!
EXIT
DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. I'M OKAY.
SHAK
SCRATCH

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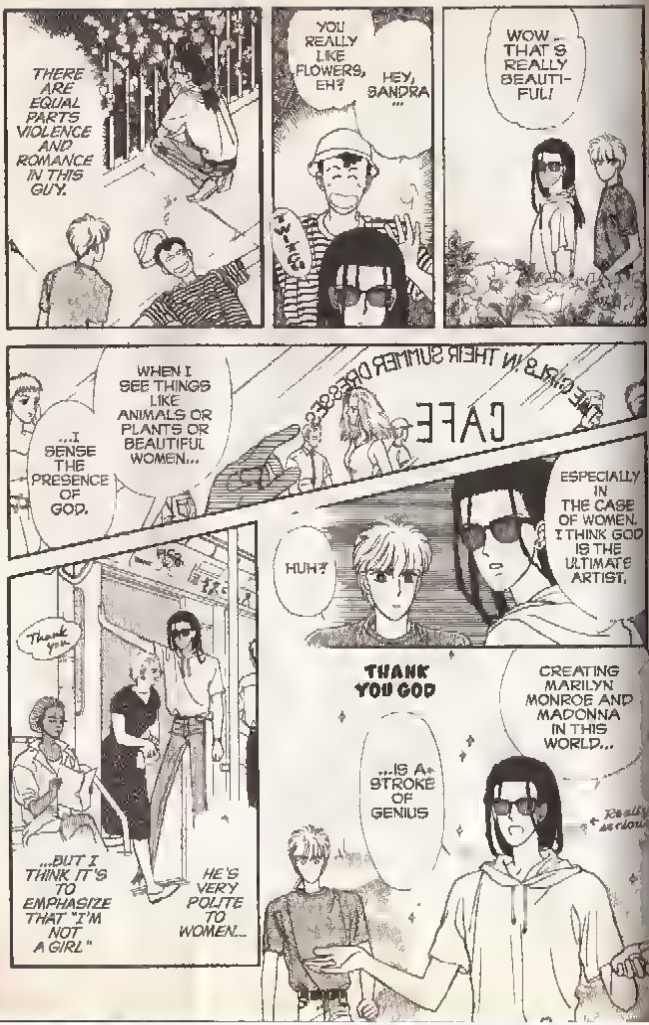
THERE ARE EQUAL PARTS VIOLENCE AND ROMANCE IN THIS GUY.
YOU REALLY LIKE FLOWERS, EH?
HEY, SANDRA ...
WOW... THAT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
CAFE
...I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF GOD.
WHEN I SEE THINGS LIKE ANIMALS OR PLANTS OR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN...
ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF WOMEN, I THINK GOD IS THE ULTIMATE ARTIST.
HUH?
Thank you.
...BUT I THINK IT'S TO EMPHASIZE THAT "I'M NOT A GIRL"
HE'S VERY POLITE TO WOMEN...
THANK YOU GOD
...IS A STROKE OF GENIUS
CREATING MARILYN MONROE AND MADONNA IN THIS WORLD...
Really serious

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Is that a guy?
Cute
TURN
SLT
SWEET
THE REASON WHY I KNOW IS THAT WHEN HE LOSES THE SUNGLASSES...
Gimme those
Hm?
TAKE IT AWAY AND HE'S POWERLESS
FLUTTER FLUTTER
WILL YOU QUIT ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT, PLEASE?
IT'S LIKE YOUR SECRET WEAPON
HE'S GOT A HUGE COMPLEX ABOUT THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE.
HURRY UP AND GIMME THOSE SUN-GLASSES BACK!

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THE GUYS IN HIS JUDO CLUB STILL SELL PICTURES OF HIM BEHIND IS BACK.
I get photos of the recent tournament...
Mark the ones you want.
Man! If only he weren't a guy!
I'll buy the ones of Levine T
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, WE ARGUED OVER WHETHER IT WAS A GUY OR A GIRL
IDIOT
GASP
HUH?
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?!
NO, NO... THAT'S JUST ...
Uh.
HEY, DON'T PUNCH THE WALL AGAIN.
EVERY-ONE'S HIDING THINGS FROM ME.
Depressed
LEVINE HASN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET.
NOTHING
NOTHING AT ALL!
.....

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I'M HITTING THE BOOKS
I'VE GOT TO INCREASE MY STRONG POINTS.
THEN MAYBE I'LL DEVELOP MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE.
HM...
IT'S NOT THAT HIS STANDARDS FOR HIS FRIENDS ARE TOO HIGH
I THINK HE RUNS AWAY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF

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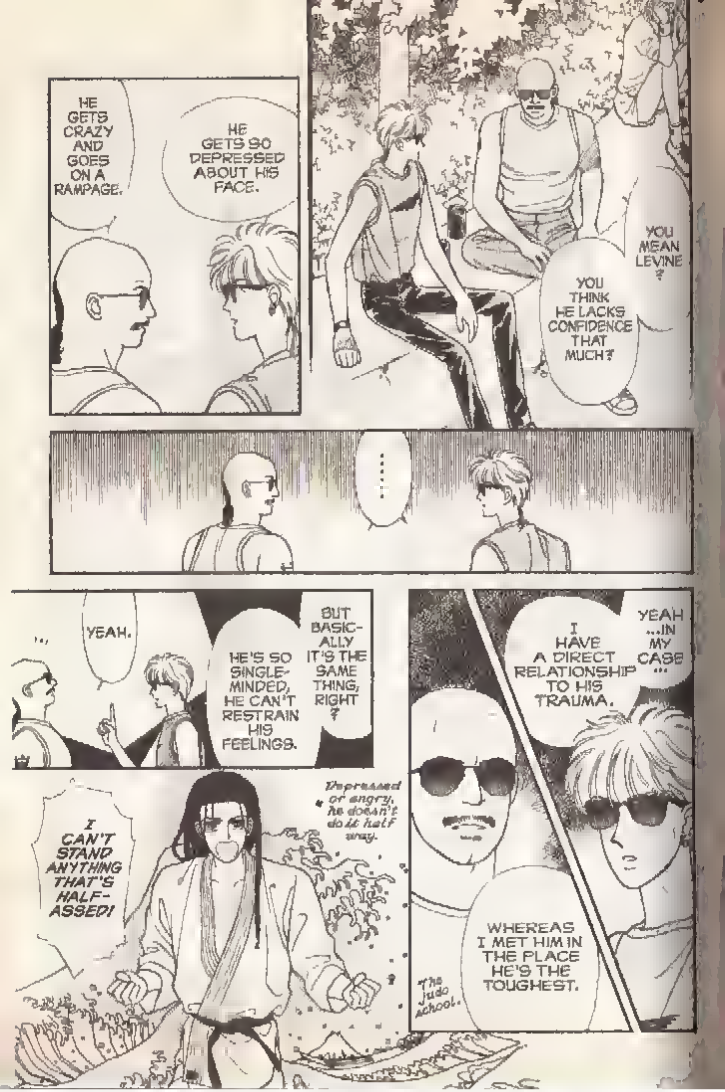
HE GETS CRAZY AND GOES ON A RAMPAGE.
HE GETS SO DEPRESSED ABOUT HIS FACE.
YOU MEAN LEVINE?
YOU THINK HE LACKS CONFIDENCE THAT MUCH?
.....
YEAH.
HE'S SO SINGLE-MINDED, HE CAN'T RESTRAIN HIS FEELINGS.
BUT BASICALLY IT'S THE SAME THING, RIGHT?
I CAN'T STAND ANYTHING THAT'S HALF-ASSED!
*Depressed or angry, he doesn't do it half way.
The Judo School.
WHEREAS I MET HIM IN THE PLACE HE'S THE TOUGHEST.
I HAVE A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO HIS TRAUMA.
YEAH ...IN MY CASE ...

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"HOW A PERSON SEEMS" VERSUS "HOW HE REALLY IS."
WHICH IS THE REAL PERSON?
HE DOES HAVE KIND OF A FOOLISH CHARM.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
HA HA HA HA
HA HA
BWA
IN THE END, EVEN I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND LEVINE
THE SAME PERSON CAN HAVE A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT FACES.
HUH?

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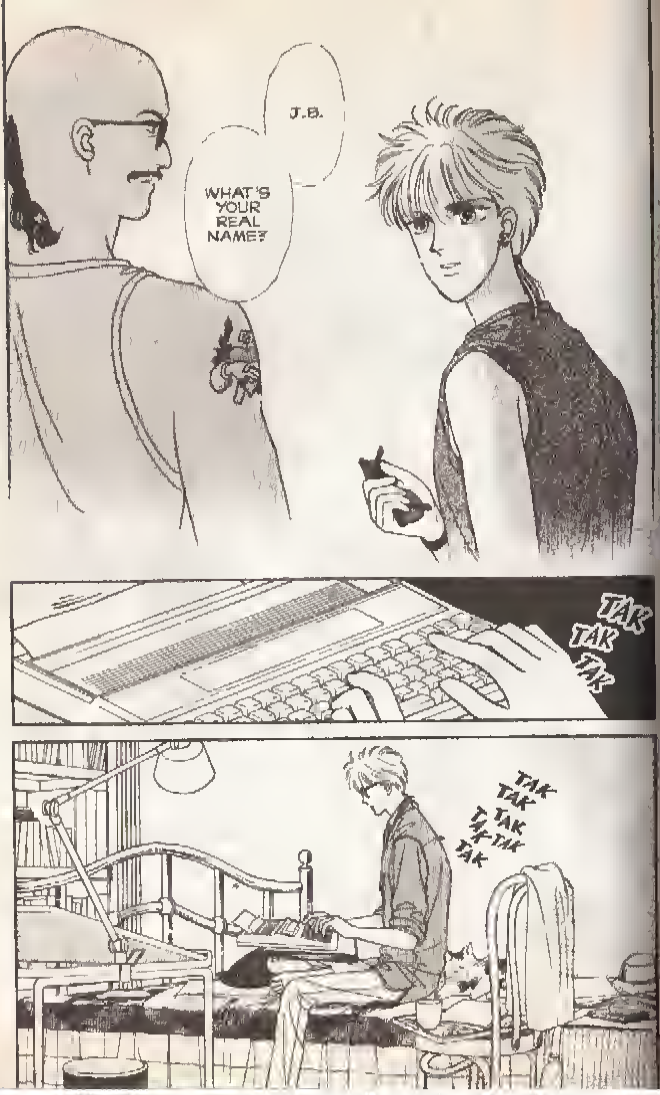

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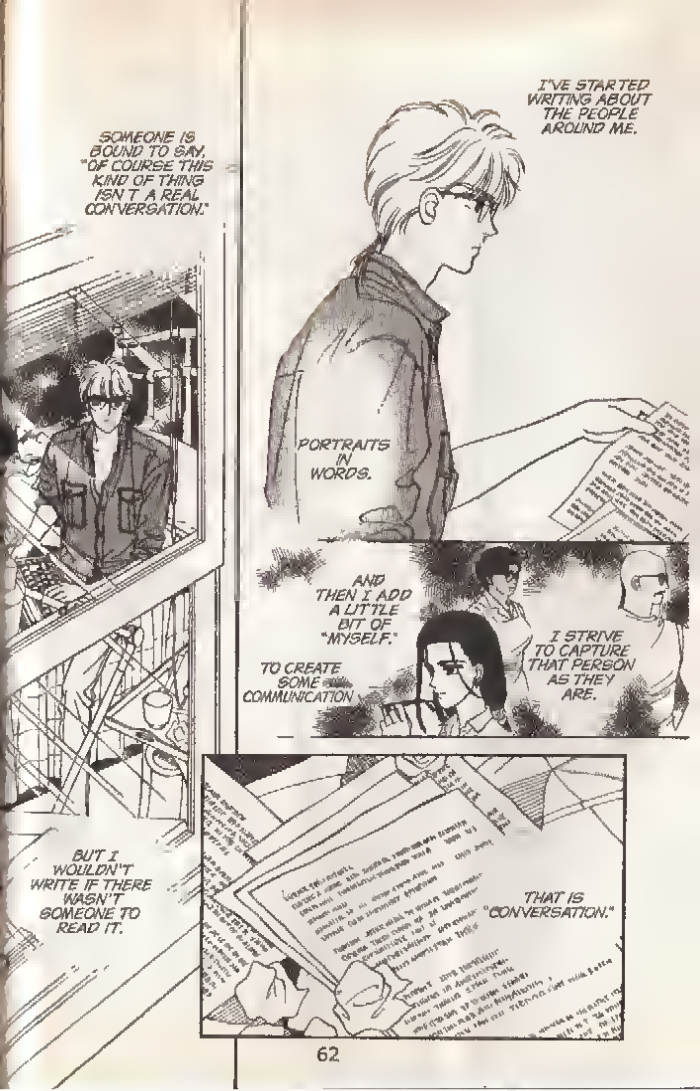
I'VE STARTED WRITING ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
SOMEONE IS BOUND TO SAY, "OF COURSE THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T A REAL CONVERSATION."
PORTRAITS IN WORDS.
AND THEN I ADD A LITTLE BIT OF "MYSELF."
I STRIVE TO CAPTURE THAT PERSON AS THEY ARE.
TO CREATE SOME COMMUNICATION
BUT I WOULDN'T WRITE IF THERE WASN'T SOMEONE TO READ IT.
THAT IS "CONVERSATION."

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I WRITE IMAGINING THAT SOMEDAY, A VOICE WILL RETURN AN ANSWER.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY.
...BUT IT FEELS SORT OF LIKE I'M WRITING A LOVE LETTER.
WOW. THAT SOUNDS COOL.
LET ME READ IT WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
WHUP
YEAH, WELL... THAT'S A LONG WAY OFF YET.

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KNOCK KNOCK
GOOD EVENING.
HEY, LEV... YOU HOME?
I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU BE THE FIRST ONE TO READ IT.
OH...
HE'S SO CUTE WHEN HE'S EMBARRASSED
BLUSH
BLUSH
WHY, JAKE! YOU'RE HERE TOO.
COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND FOR AN HOUR?
SURE. WHAT IS IT?
CLIP
I NEED YOU TO LOOK AFTER MY KIDS.
!

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BWAHAHA
BAHAM
GRASH
WAAH
ACTUALLY, I'D PREFER IT IF THEY DIDN'T.
WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN CHEEP. AT LEAST THEY CAN TALK.
WHY DON'T I DO IT?
A BABY-SITTER? FOR DANA?
SHE ALSO LOOKED FOR A BABYSITTER SHE COULD USE IN THE AFTER-NOONS.
HOW COME EVEN LITTLE DANA IS HERE?
PATTY'S OUT LOOKING OR A JOB.
WHO ARE YOU TO SPEAK FOR HER MOTHER?!
Grr
SHE EVEN DRIVES HER OWN MOTHER CRAZY!
N-NO YOU COULDN'T! DANA'S TOO LITTLE!

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NO... WAIT... AS GOOD A "BABYSITTER." THAT'S WHAT I MEANT! DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED!
I CAN BE AS GOOD A MOTHER AS HER!
IF THAT THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD CAN GET A SITTER'S LICENSE, THEN SO CAN I!
WAH! WAH!
I'LL BECOME A GREAT BABYSITTER, AND I'LL COME FOR YOU!
WAIT FOR ME, DANA.
UH... WHAT KIND OF PERSON?
I MEAN THE OTHER DANA.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS DANA?

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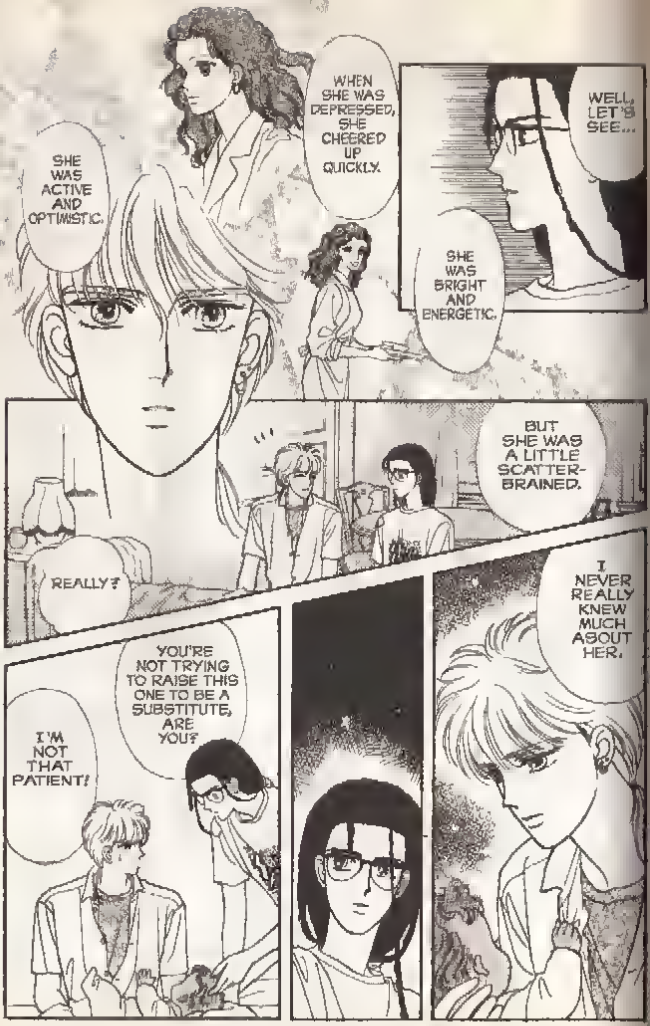
WELL, LET'S SEE...
SHE WAS BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC.
WHEN SHE WAS DEPRESSED, SHE CHEERED UP QUICKLY.
SHE WAS ACTIVE AND OPTIMISTIC.
BUT SHE WAS A LITTLE SCATTER-BRAINED.
REALLY?
I NEVER REALLY KNEW MUCH ABOUT HER.
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO RAISE THIS ONE TO BE A SUBSTITUTE, ARE YOU?
I'M NOT THAT PATIENT!

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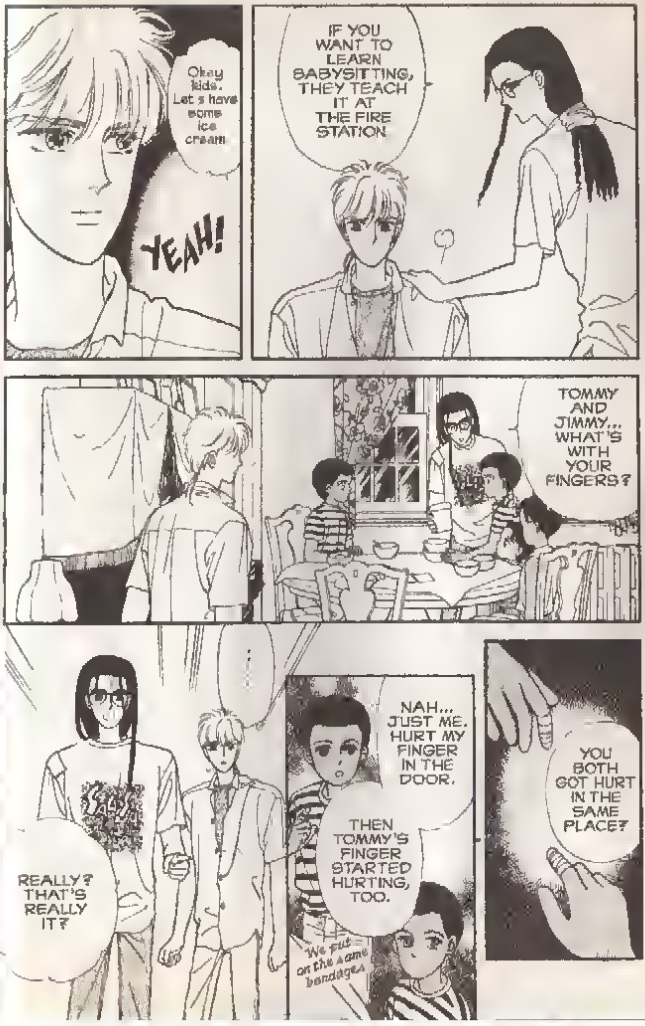
Okay kids. Let's have some ice cream.
YEAH!
IF YOU WANT TO LEARN BABYSITTING, THEY TEACH IT AT THE FIRE STATION.
TOMMY AND JIMMY... WHAT'S WITH YOUR FINGERS?
NAH... JUST ME. HURT MY FINGER IN THE DOOR.
THEN TOMMY'S FINGER STARTED HURTING, TOO.
We sat on the same bandages.
YOU BOTH GOT HURT IN THE SAME PLACE?
REALLY? THAT'S REALLY IT?

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I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE ALL ALONE.
I GET THE FEELING I DIDN'T KNOW HIM AT ALL.
UP-TIGHT CLUB
I COULD TELL THAT WHEN HE WAS SUFFERING HE WOULDN'T SHOW ME.
YEAH, REALLY.
TOMMY DOESN'T LIE!
I didn't say he was lying.
Heh.
THEY'RE JUST LIKE US
ROY...

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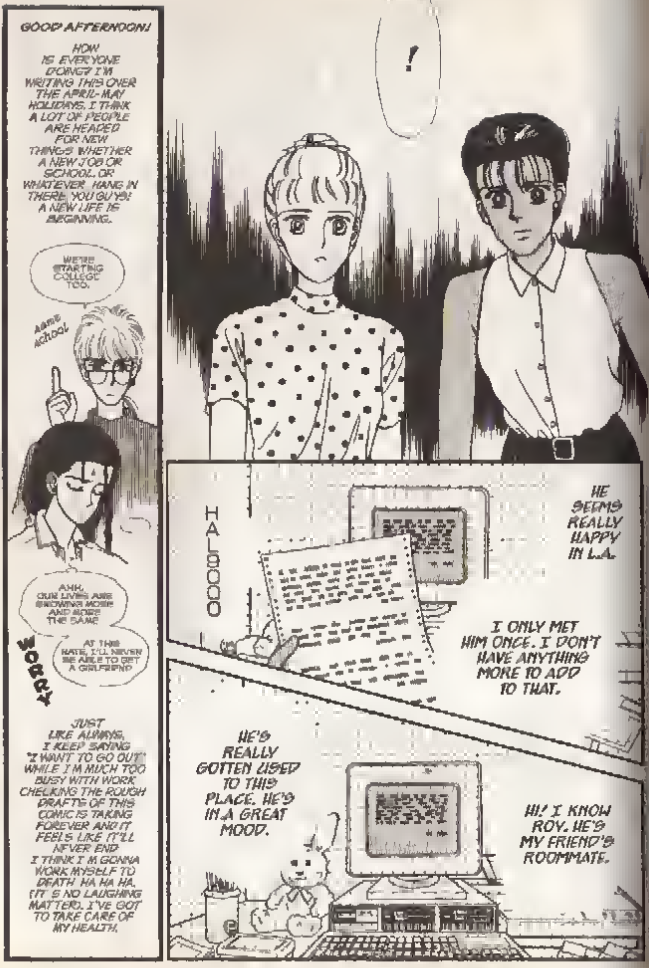
GOOD AFTERNOON!
HOW IS EVERYONE DOING? I'M WRITING THIS OVER THE APRIL-MAY HOLIDAYS. I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE HEADED FOR NEW THINGS WHETHER A NEW JOB OR SCHOOL, OR WHATEVER. HANG IN THERE, YOU GUYS! A NEW LIFE IS BEGINNING.
WE'RE STARTING COLLEGE TOO.
ANNE HOUSE
AHH, OUR LIVES ARE ENDING MORE AND MORE THE SAME
WORRY
AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET A GIRLFRIEND
JUST LIKE ALWAYS, I KEEP SAYING "I WANT TO GO OUT" WHILE I'M MUCH TOO BUSY WITH WORK CHECKING THE ROUGH DRAFTS OF THIS COMIC IS TAKING FOREVER AND IT FEELS LIKE IT'LL NEVER END. I THINK I'M GONNA WORK MYSELF TO DEATH. HA HA HA. (IT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER). I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF MY HEALTH.
!
HE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY IN L.A.
HA-DOOO
I ONLY MET HIM ONCE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO ADD TO THAT.
HE'S REALLY GOTTEN USED TO THIS PLACE. HE'S IN A GREAT MOOD.
HI! I KNOW ROY. HE'S MY FRIEND'S ROOMMATE.

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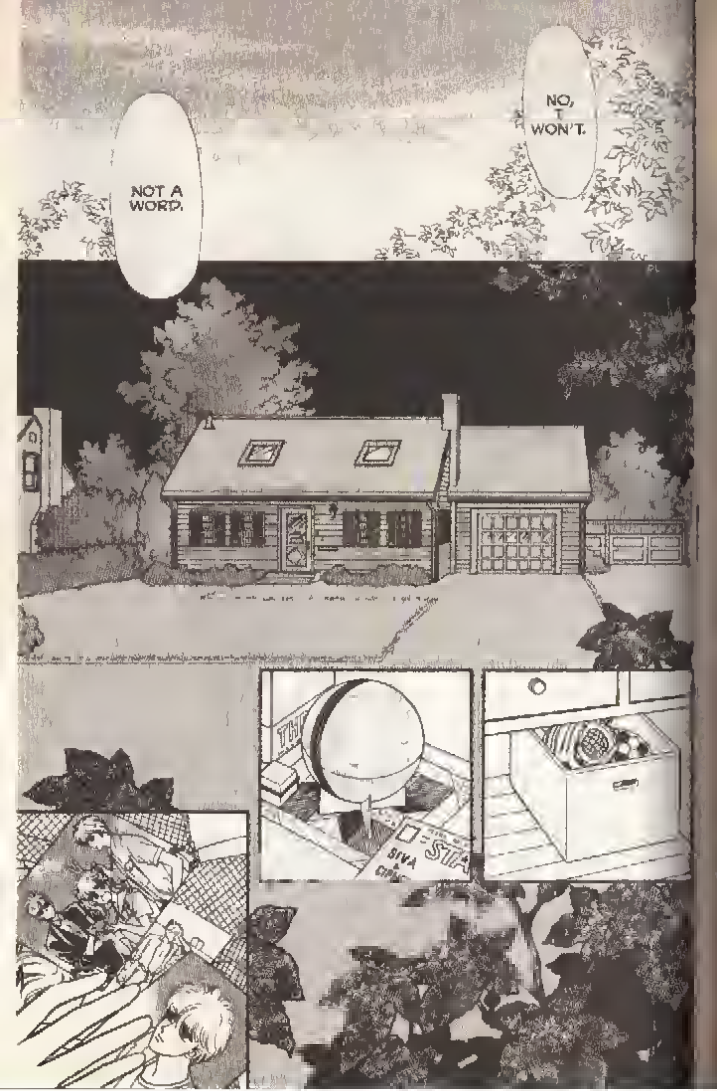

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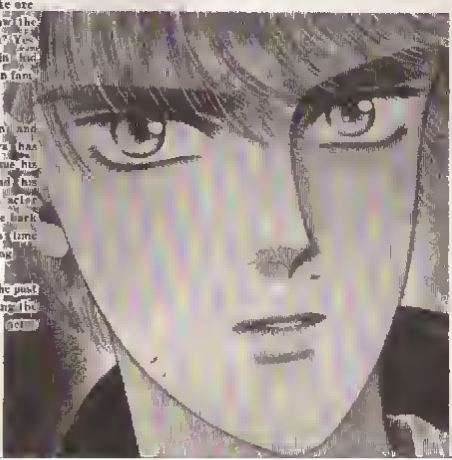
ROY LANG TALKS ABOUT CIPHER

There may be those of you who wouldn't have a clue about who Roy and Jake are. But who wouldn't know the Twins, Cipher and Siva? Yes, they're the little twin kid stars whom all American fam- likes once adored.

Now they're eighteen and grown up. While Siva has gone to college to pursue his studies leaving behind his accomplishments as an actor, Cipher is making a come back to the spotlight, this time calling himself Roy Lang.

Here you will witness the past and future of Roy Lang, the most promising young act of our times.



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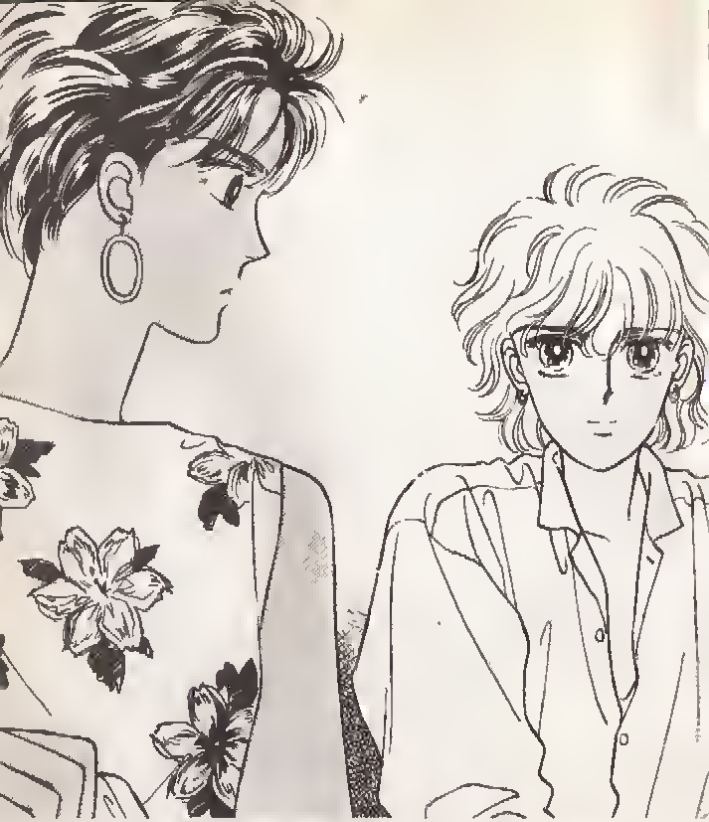

CIPHER

Volume 10 **By Minako Narita**

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IT'S ALMOST INDEPEN-DENCE DAY, ISN'T IT?
OH, HEY ..
SORRY I'M LATE
I HAD ROB GIVE ME A RIDE, AND TRAFFIC WAS AWFUL.
IT'S ALMOST "LIBERTY WEEK," AND THE PLACE IS PACKED WITH TOURISTS.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT'S ALMOST THE STATUE OF LIBERTY'S HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY ?
UH... YEAH, YEAH .. OF COURSE I KNEW.
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, ANISE!
HERE.
IT'S THE LATEST CLIPPINGS ABOUT CIPHER.
WHAT DID YOU FIND ?
BUT ANYWAY, HURRY UP AND SHOW ME.
UH.. OKAY

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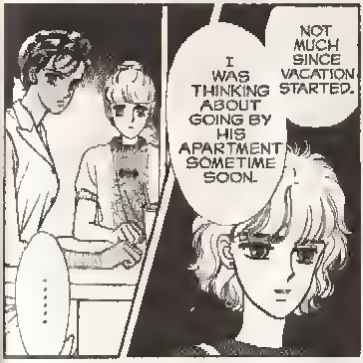

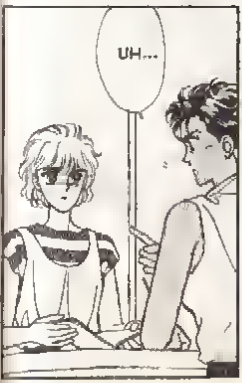

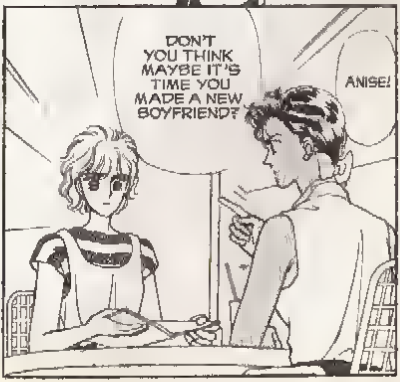

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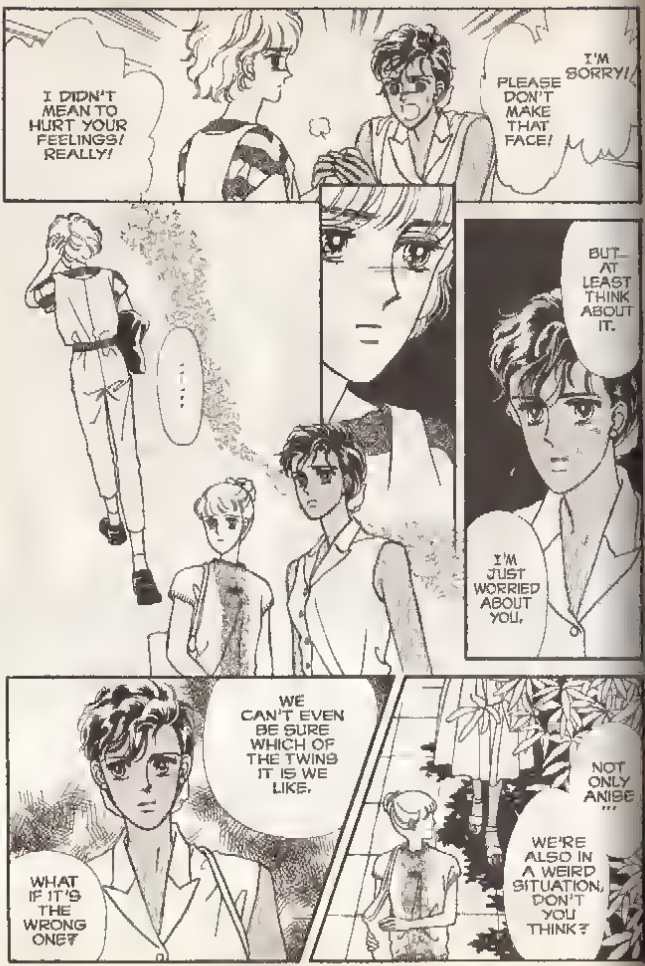
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS! REALLY!
I'M SORRY! PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT FACE!
BUT— AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WE CAN'T EVEN BE SURE WHICH OF THE TWINS IT IS WE LIKE.
WHAT IF IT'S THE WRONG ONE?
NOT ONLY ANISE ...
WE'RE ALSO IN A WEIRD SITUATION, DON'T YOU THINK?

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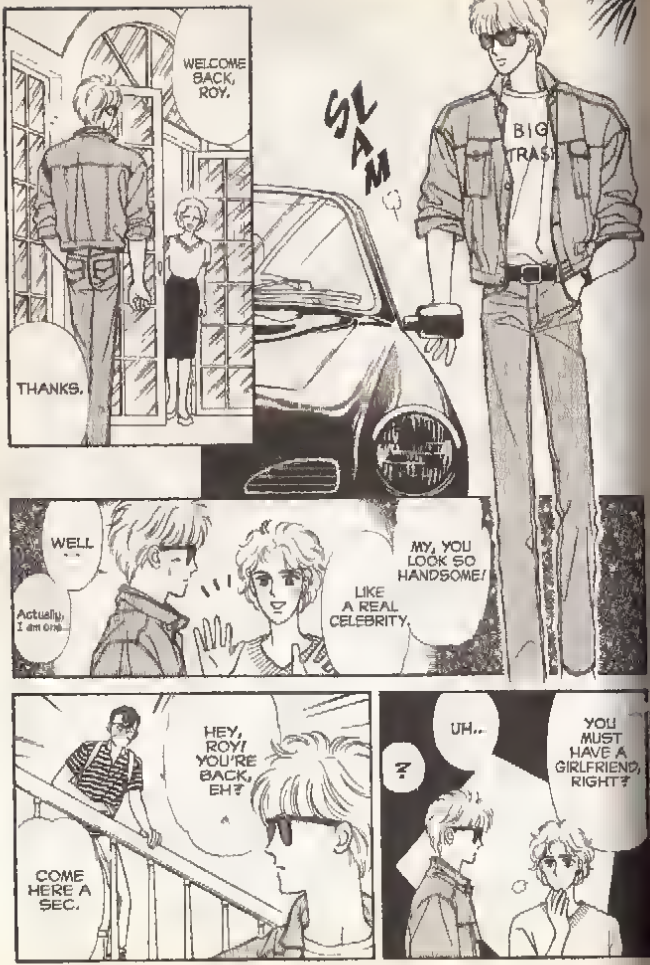

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WE ORIGINALLY GOT HIM TO STUDY TURTLE CUISINE.
NO WAY! IF YOU WANT TO EAT TURTLE, GO TO SOUTH AMERICA!
THEY WANT TO EAT MY GAMERA!
MY PARENTS REALLY SUCK!
GAMERA?
THE TURTLE, REMEMBER?
BIG RAS
SIGH
Ha ha ha.
WELL, I'M AGAINST EATING TURTLES, TOO.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HAL.
BIG
I'LL DEFEND GAMERA WITH MY LIFE!
CLUNK CLUNK
BIG TMS

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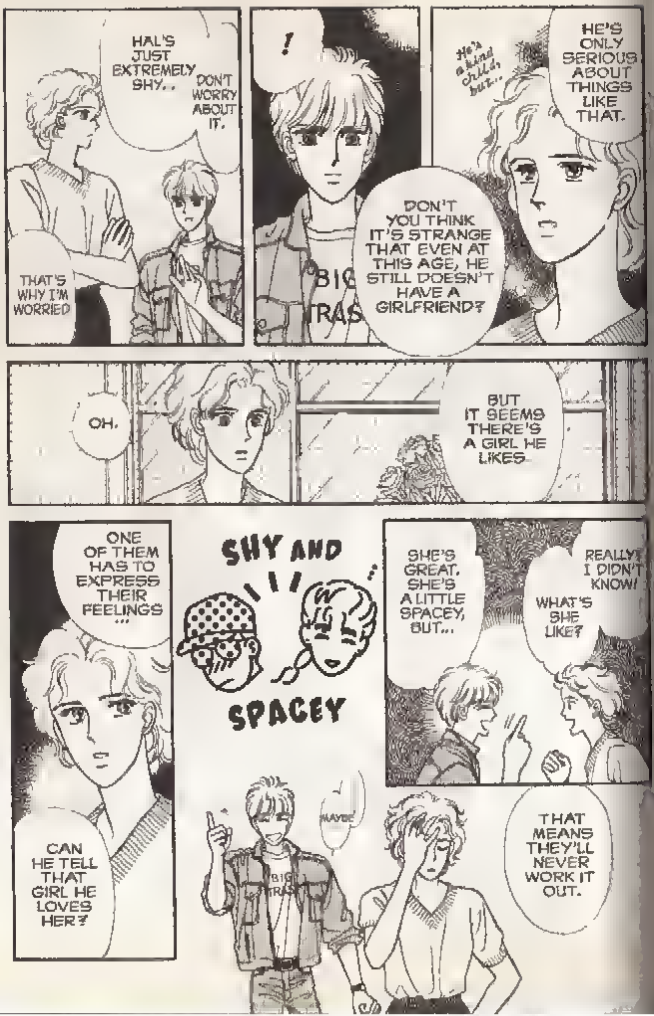
HAL'S JUST EXTREMELY SHY..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED
!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT EVEN AT THIS AGE, HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
He's a kind child, but...
HE'S ONLY SERIOUS ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
OH.
BUT IT SEEMS THERE'S A GIRL HE LIKES.
ONE OF THEM HAS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS ...
CAN HE TELL THAT GIRL HE LOVES HER?
SHY AND
SPACEY
SHE'S GREAT. SHE'S A LITTLE SPACEY, BUT...
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW!
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
HAVE
THAT MEANS THEY'LL NEVER WORK IT OUT.

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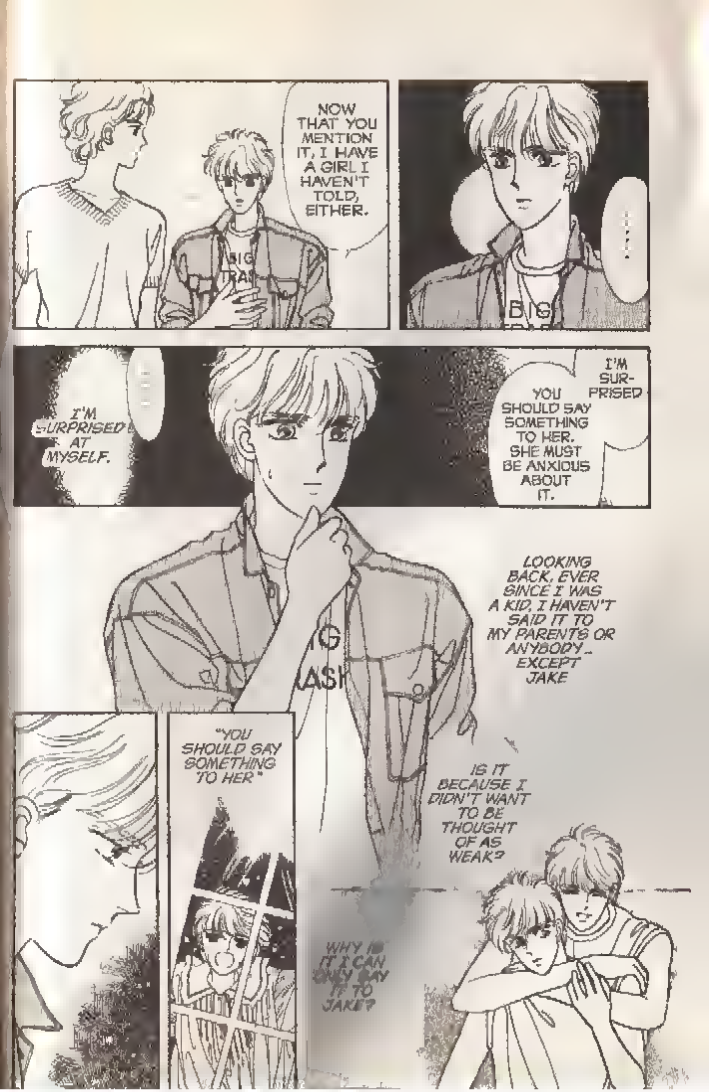
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE A GIRL I HAVEN'T TOLD, EITHER.
I'M SURPRISED AT MYSELF.
I'M SURPRISED
YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HER. SHE MUST BE ANXIOUS ABOUT IT.
LOOKING BACK, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I HAVEN'T SAID IT TO MY PARENTS OR ANYBODY... EXCEPT JAKE
"YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HER."
IS IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS WEAK?
WHY IS IT I CAN ONLY SAY IT TO JAKE?

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CREAK
OH.
HI!
LONG TIME NO SEE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAME AS ALWAYS.
ARE YOU WAITING FOR SIVA? IS HE NOT IN?
YUP. THERE WAS A NOTE TAPED TO THE DOOR.
I'M GOING TO BUY FISH FOR MY HONEY BE BACK SOON. WAIT FOR ME.
J

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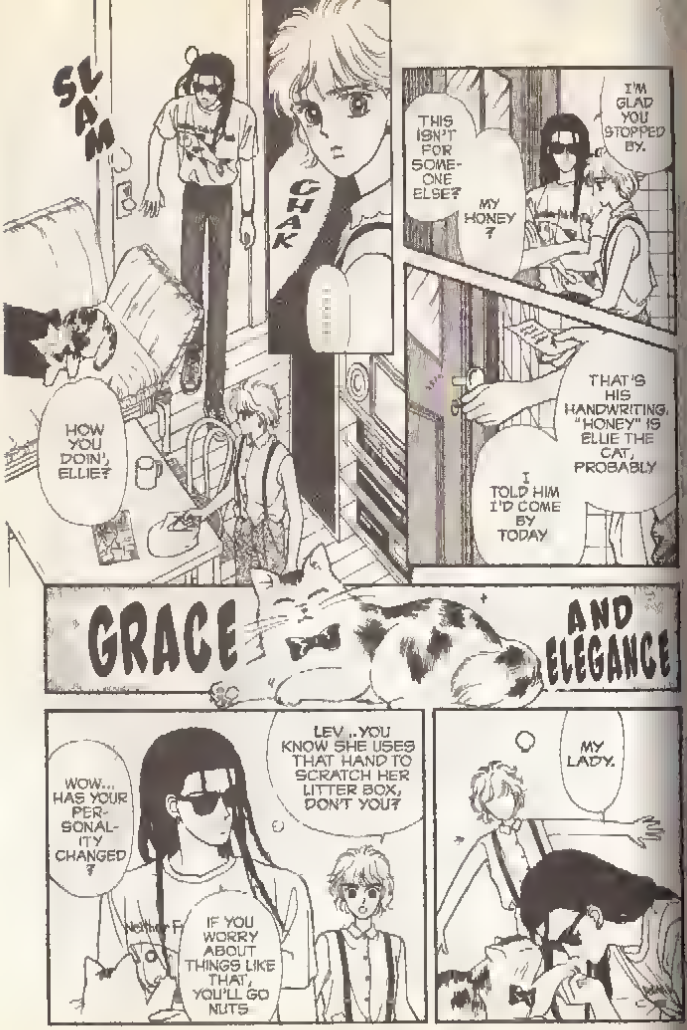
SLAM
CHAK
HOW YOU DOIN', ELLIE?
THIS ISN'T FOR SOME-ONE ELSE?
MY HONEY?
I'M GLAD YOU STOPPED BY.
THAT'S HIS HANDWRITING. "HONEY" IS ELLIE THE CAT, PROBABLY
I TOLD HIM I'D COME BY TODAY
GRACE AND ELEGANCE
WOW... HAS YOUR PER-SONAL-ITY CHANGED?
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GO NUTS
LEV.. YOU KNOW SHE USES THAT HAND TO SCRATCH HER LITTER BOX, DON'T YOU?
MY LADY.

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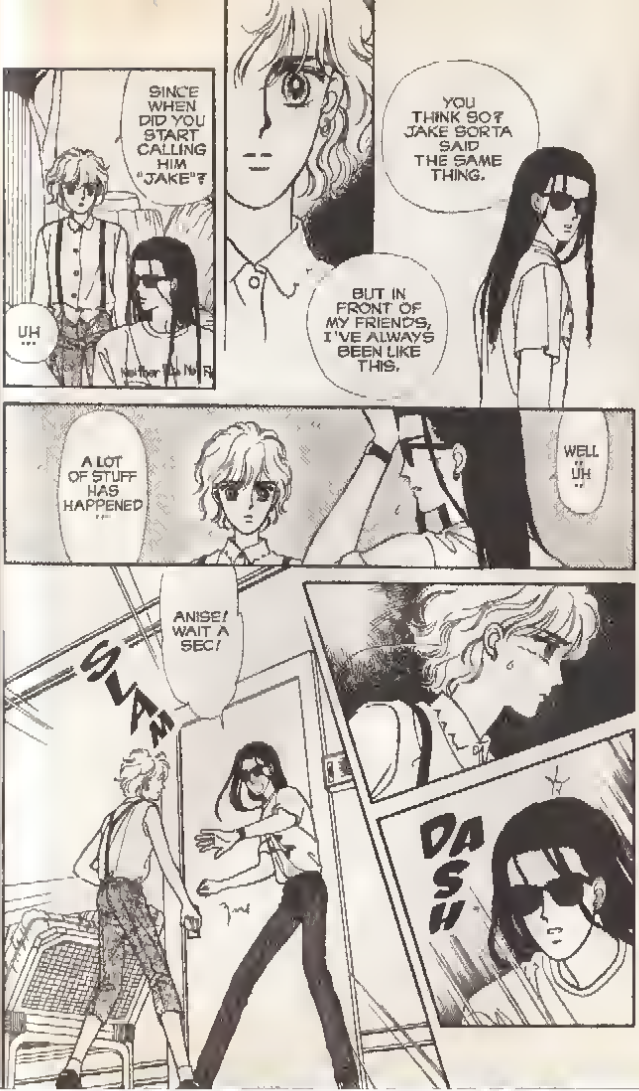
SINCE WHEN DID YOU START CALLING HIM "JAKE"?
UH ...
YOU THINK SO? JAKE SORTA SAID THE SAME THING.
BUT IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
A LOT OF STUFF HAS HAPPENED ...
WELL ... UH ...
ANISE! WAIT A SEC!
SLAM
DASH

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IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY SAY IT!
YOU CAN HIT ME IF YOU RE MAD AT ME.
THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
AS HARD AS YOU WANT! HIT ME WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!
WHAT'S WRONG? C'MON!
WHAM

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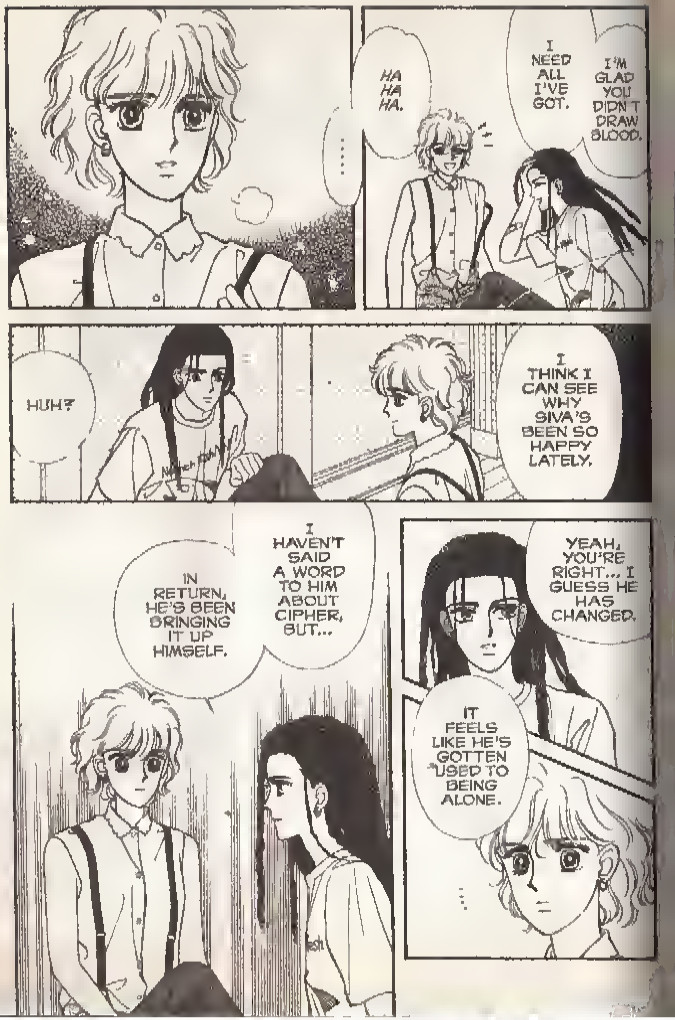
.....
HA HA HA.
I NEED ALL I'VE GOT.
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T DRAW BLOOD.
HUH?
I THINK I CAN SEE WHY SIVA'S BEEN SO HAPPY LATELY.
I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO HIM ABOUT CIPHER, BUT...
IN RETURN, HE'S BEEN BRINGING IT UP HIMSELF.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT... I GUESS HE HAS CHANGED.
IT FEELS LIKE HE'S GOTTEN USED TO BEING ALONE.
...

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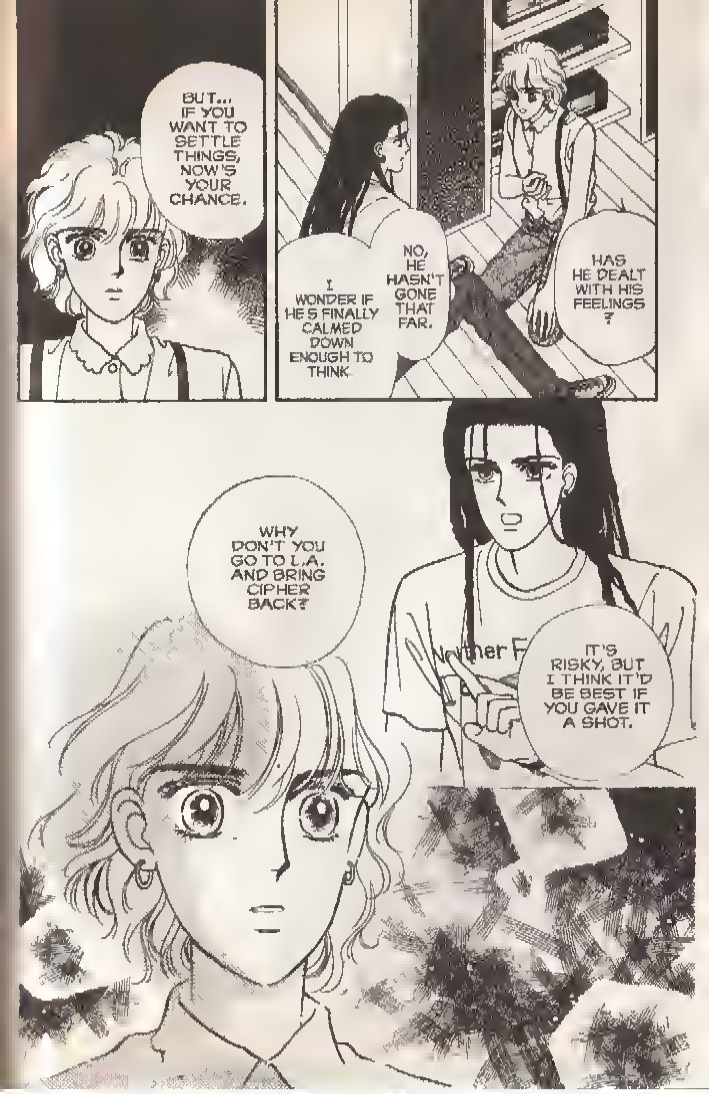
BUT... IF YOU WANT TO SETTLE THINGS, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
I WONDER IF HE'S FINALLY CALMED DOWN ENOUGH TO THINK.
NO, HE HASN'T GONE THAT FAR.
HAS HE DEALT WITH HIS FEELINGS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO L.A. AND BRING CIPHER BACK?
IT'S RISKY, BUT I THINK IT'D BE BEST IF YOU GAVE IT A SHOT.

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ANISE?
IT'S SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN DO.
MEANWHILE, I'LL WATCH OVER JAKE.
FIND HIM, TALK TO HIM, AND BRING HIM BACK!
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I HAVE THE POWER TO PERSUADE CIPHER.
HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME.
ANISE.
...!!
ARE YOU THINKING... HE'S FOUND ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND?

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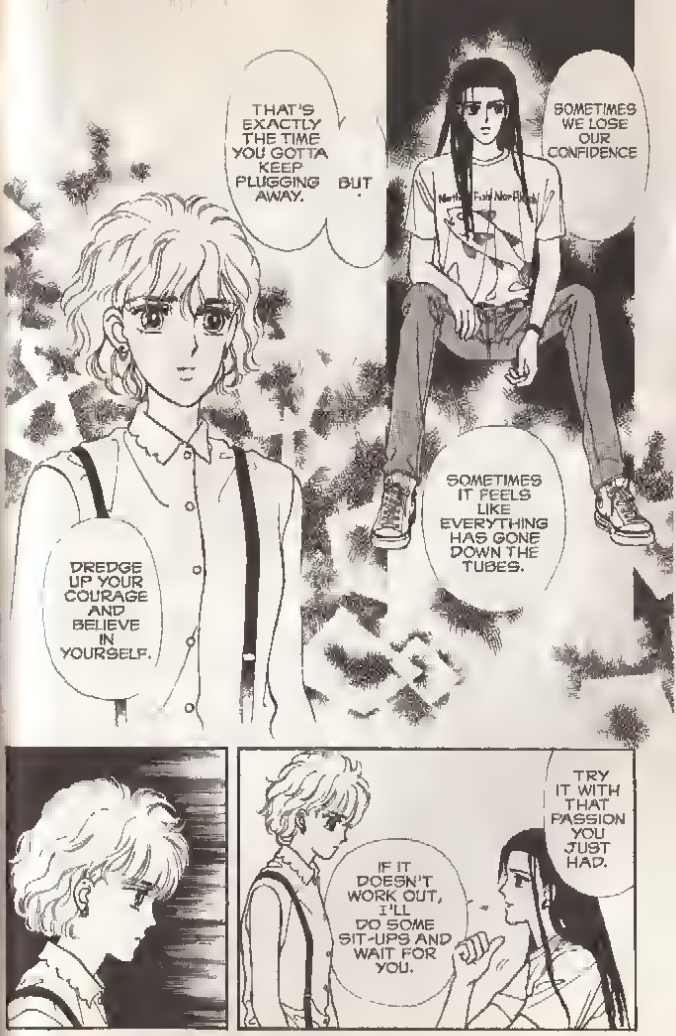
THAT'S EXACTLY THE TIME YOU GOTTA KEEP PLUGGING AWAY.
BUT
SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR CONFIDENCE
SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING HAS GONE DOWN THE TUBES.
DREDGE UP YOUR COURAGE AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I'LL DO SOME SIT-UPS AND WAIT FOR YOU.
TRY IT WITH THAT PASSION YOU JUST HAD.

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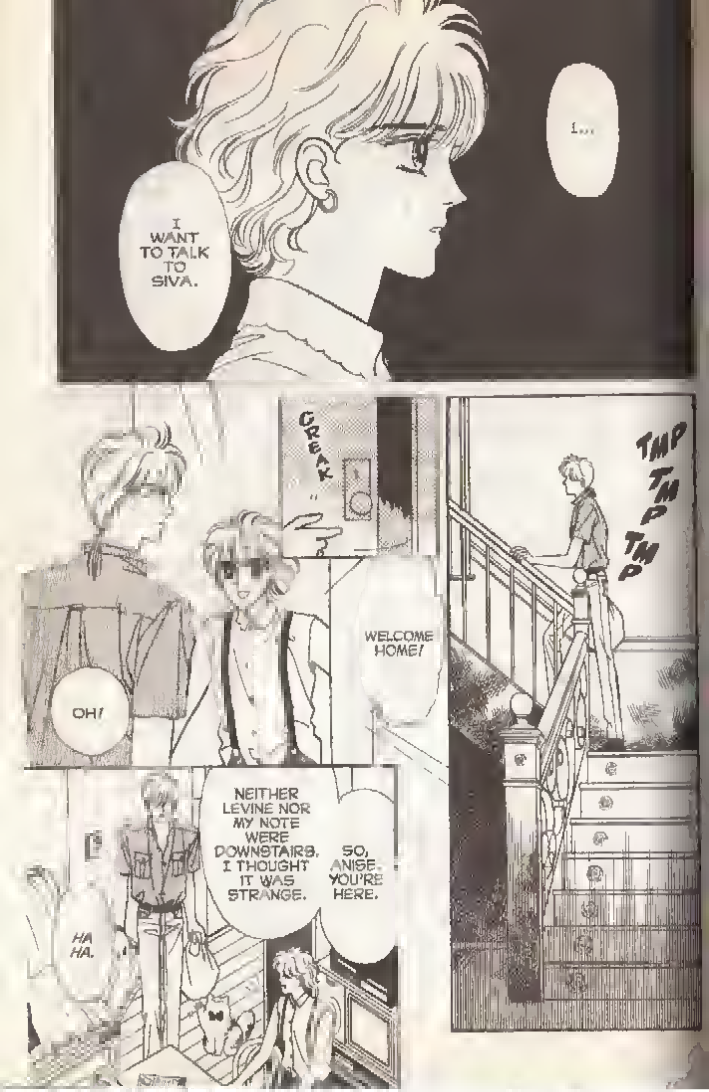

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.....
I WANT IT TO BE CIPHER.
UNLESS YOU TELL HIM YOU WANT TO MEET HIM.
BUT CIPHER'S DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO CONTACT ME.
...PRETEND-ING IT'S CIPHER.
I WANT TO HAVE MY FIRST EXPERI-ENCE...
SO... I GIVE UP.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CALL HIM, ARE YOU?

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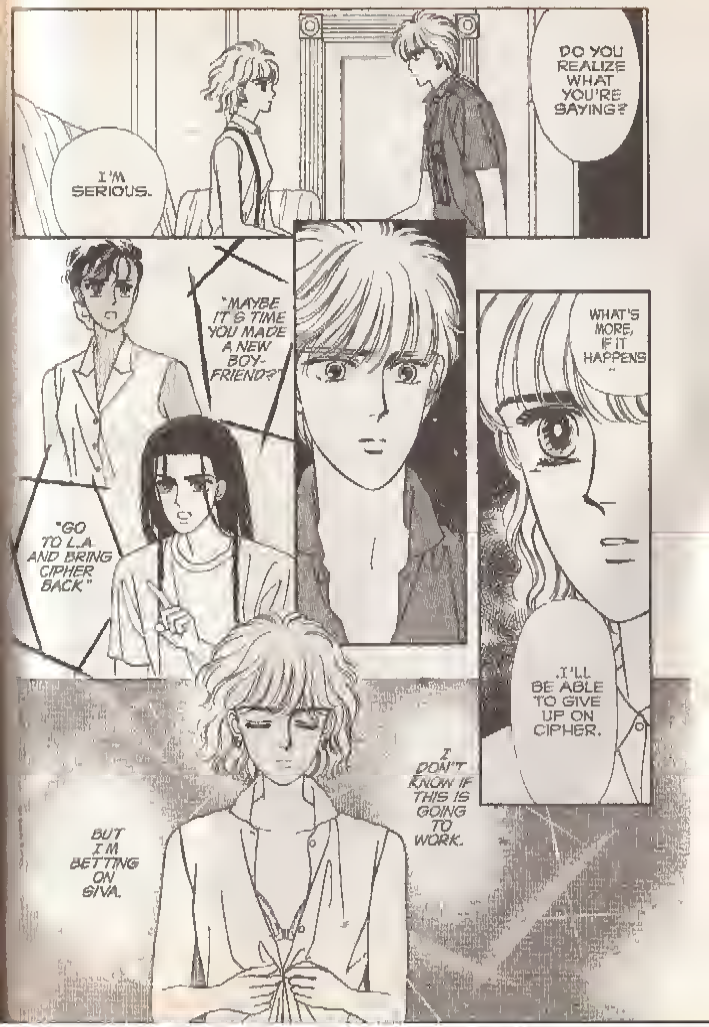
I'M SERIOUS.
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
"MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU MADE A NEW BOY-FRIEND?"
"GO TO L.A. AND BRING CIPHER BACK."
WHAT'S MORE, IF IT HAPPENS ..
..I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE UP ON CIPHER.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
BUT I'M BETTING ON GIVA.

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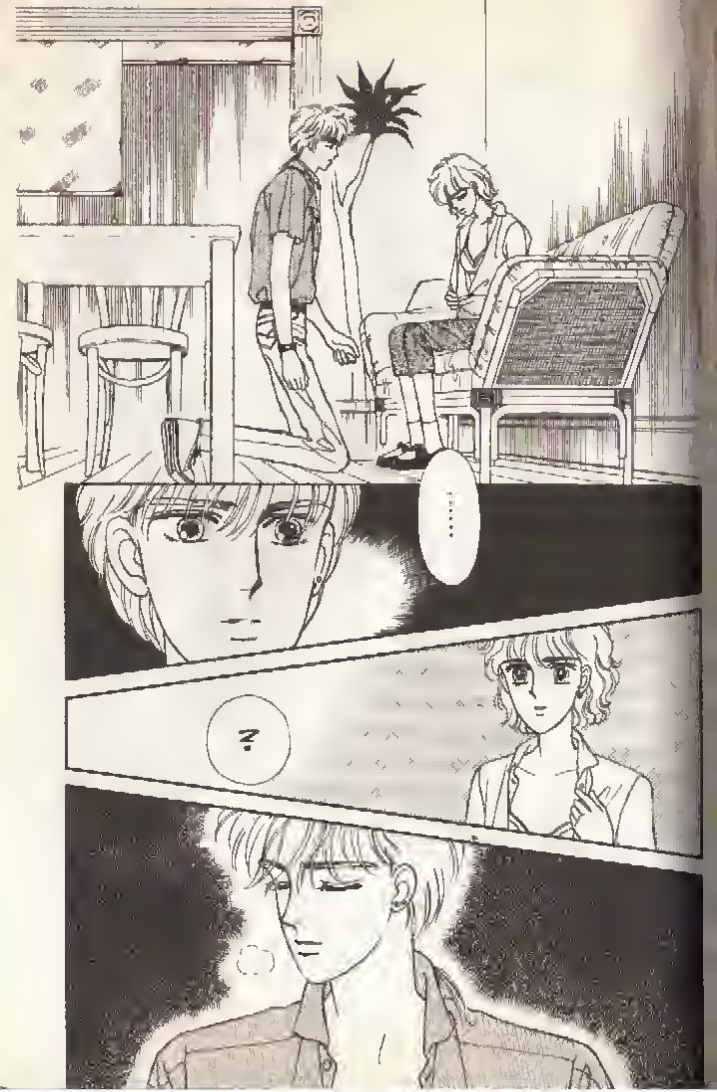

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I'M SORRY!
FORGIVE ME, SIVA!
I SAID ALL THAT KNOWING YOU'D TURN ME DOWN!
I WAS TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO...REALLY, FORGIVE ME!
PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE, ANISE
FORGET WHAT I SAID BEFORE!
I'M ALL RIGHT! JUST FORGET IT ALL!
AN.. ANISE

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I DON'T WANT IT TO BE ANYBODY BUT DANA.
I'M THE SAME.
I ♥ NY
THANK YOU, PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN.
PRESIDENT AND MRS. MITTERRAND.
SHE REMAINS IN OUR HEARTS AS A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY ILLUMINATING THE WORLD
T-SHIRTS

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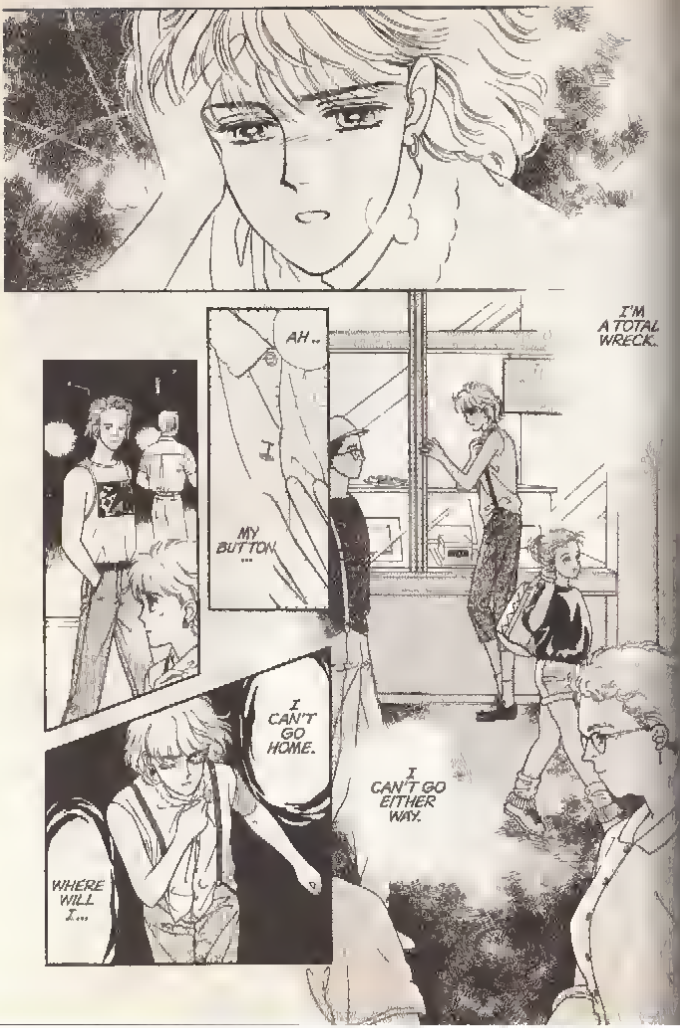

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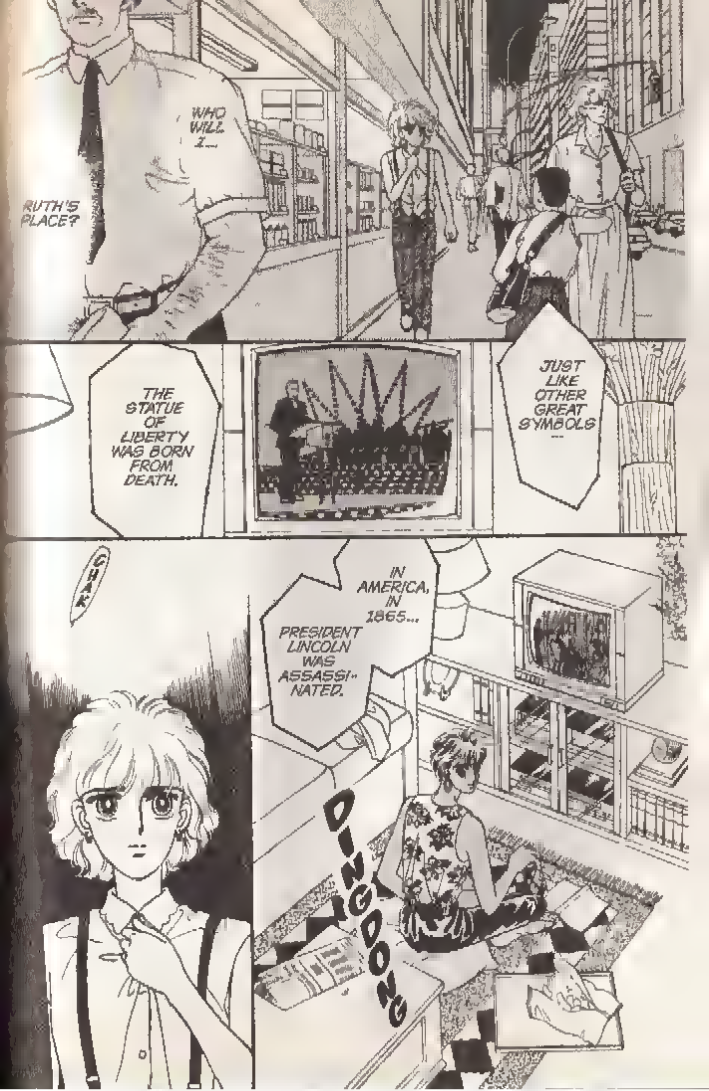

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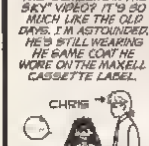
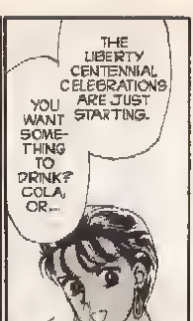
THE ONE THING THAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME HAPPY IS WORKING ON THE CIPHER IMAGE ALBUM. THANKS TO SAKURAI THE DIRECTOR AND PAIGE THE COORDINATOR WE GOT THE THOMPSON TWINS TO WRITE A SONG FOR IT... A BRAND NEW TUNE. I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING.

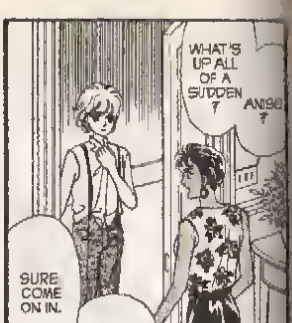
HAVE YOU SEE THE "BOMBERS IN THE SKY" VIDEO? IT'S SO MUCH LIKE THE OLD DAYS. I'M ASTOUNDED. HE'S STILL WEARING HIS RAINE COAT. I WORE ON THE MAXELL CASSETTE LABEL.



CHRIS THE GUY SINGING THE TTS SONG, HAD A FACE JUST LIKE TOM, THE COULDN'T USE TOM AND ALANNAH'S VOICES DUE TO THE CONTRACT) HE'S A YOUNG GUY WHO GREW UP IN ENGLAND AND L.A. HE CAME TO JAPAN JUST TO DO THIS RECORDING. THANKFULLY

I'M REALLY INTO RETRO STUFF THESE DAYS.





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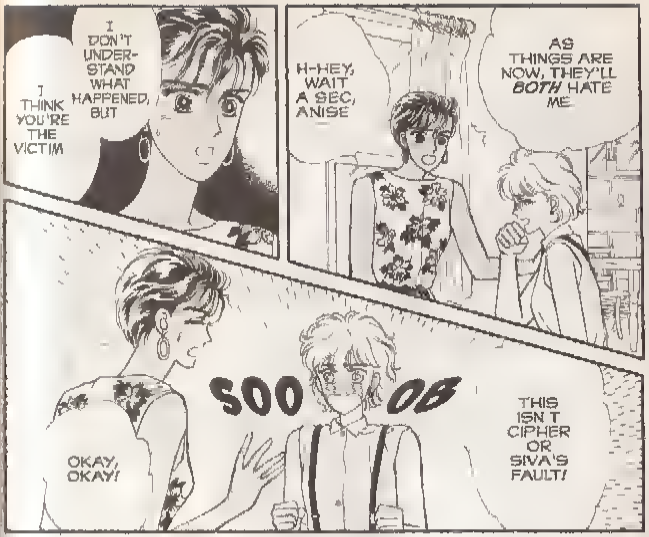
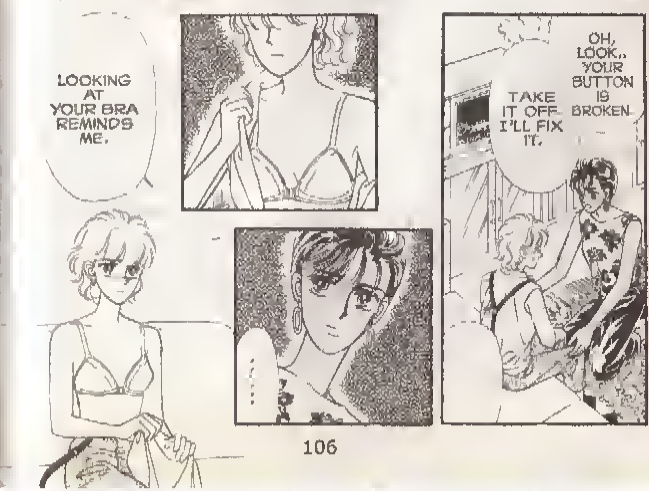

I THINK YOU'RE THE VICTIM
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT HAPPENED, BUT
H-HEY, WAIT A SEC, ANISE
AS THINGS ARE NOW, THEY'LL BOTH HATE ME
SOOOB
OKAY, OKAY!
THIS ISN'T CIPHER OR SIVA'S FAULT!



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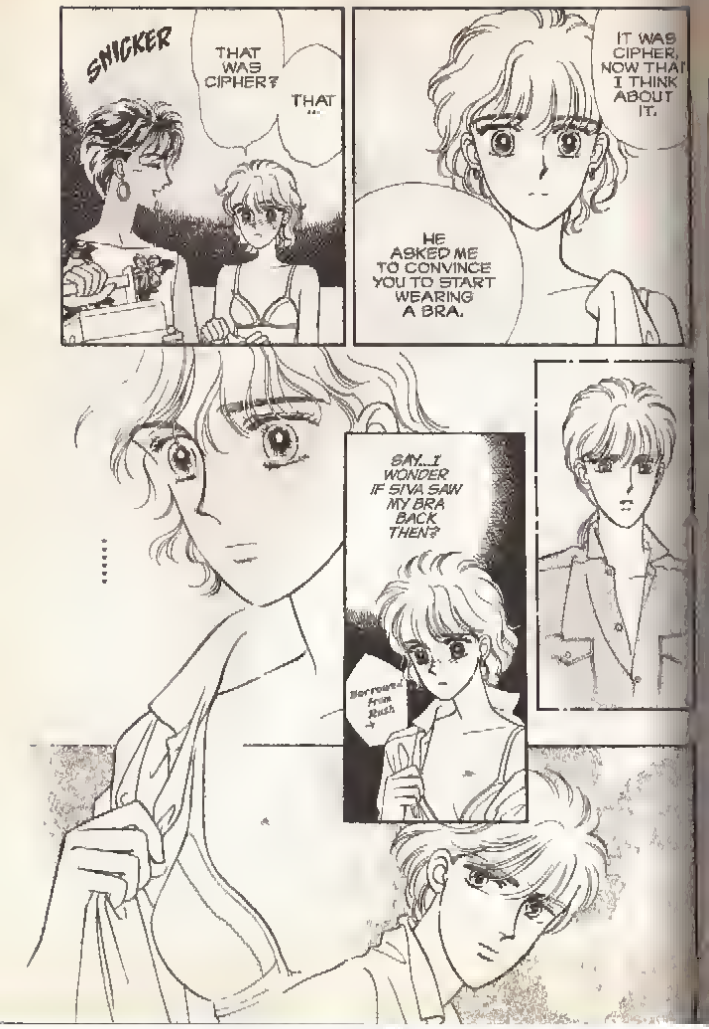
SNICKER
THAT WAS CIPHER?
THAT ...
IT WAS CIPHER, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
HE ASKED ME TO CONVINCE YOU TO START WEARING A BRA.
SAY... I WONDER IF SIVA SAW MY BRA BACK THEN?
Borrowed from Rich

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CIPHER!

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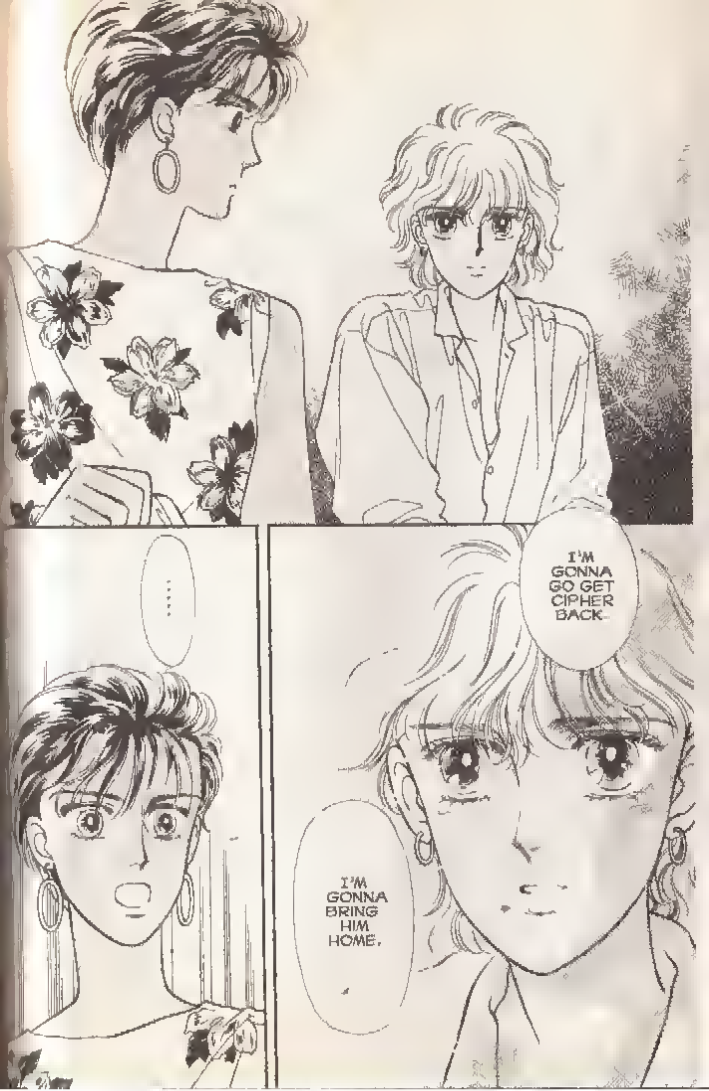

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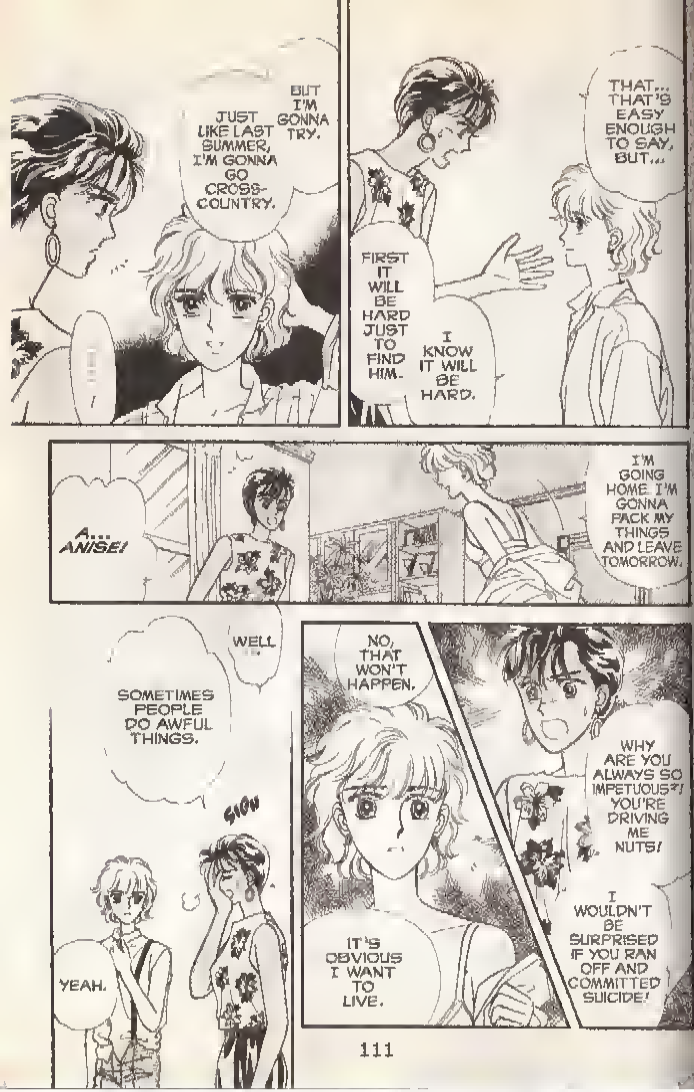
JUST LIKE LAST SUMMER, I'M GONNA GO CROSS-COUNTRY.
BUT I'M GONNA TRY.
...
THAT... THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY, BUT...
FIRST IT WILL BE HARD JUST TO FIND HIM.
I KNOW IT WILL BE HARD.
A... ANISE!
I'M GOING HOME. I'M GONNA PACK MY THINGS AND LEAVE TOMORROW.
WELL...
SOMETIMES PEOPLE DO AWFUL THINGS.
SION
YEAH.
NO, THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
IT'S OBVIOUS I WANT TO LIVE.
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO IMPETUOUS?! YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU RAN OFF AND COMMITTED SUICIDE!

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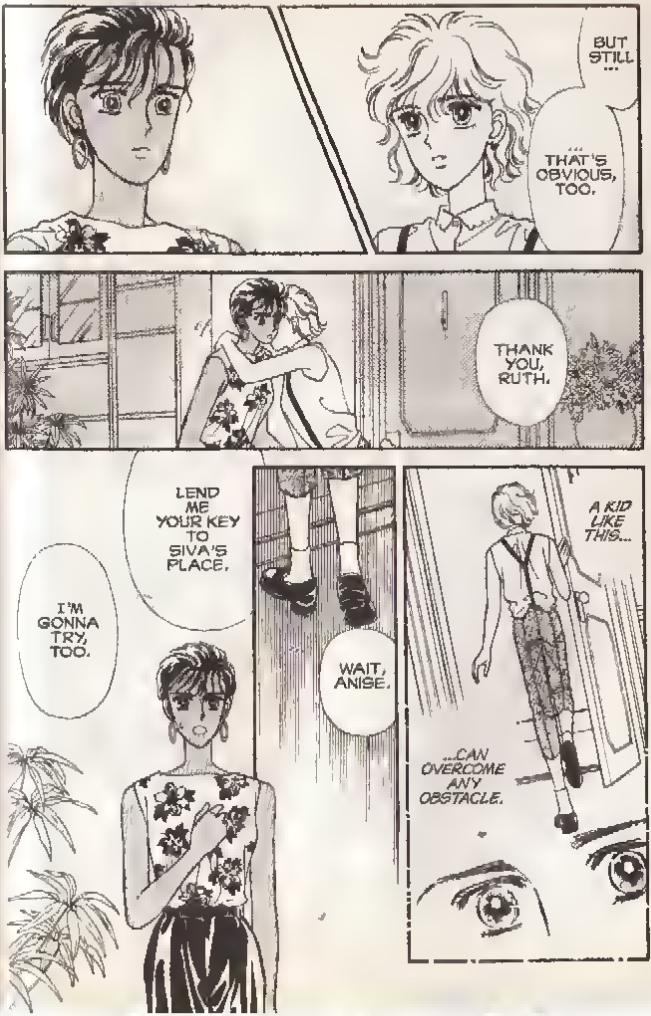

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I WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE ONE I LIKE IS CIPHER OR SIVA!
MOLLY CERTAINLY FEELS THE SAME WAY.
AND IF IT ISN'T CIPHER ...
TRY TO BE SURE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TRY"?
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT WITH DANA ...
... FOR SIVA'S SAKE!

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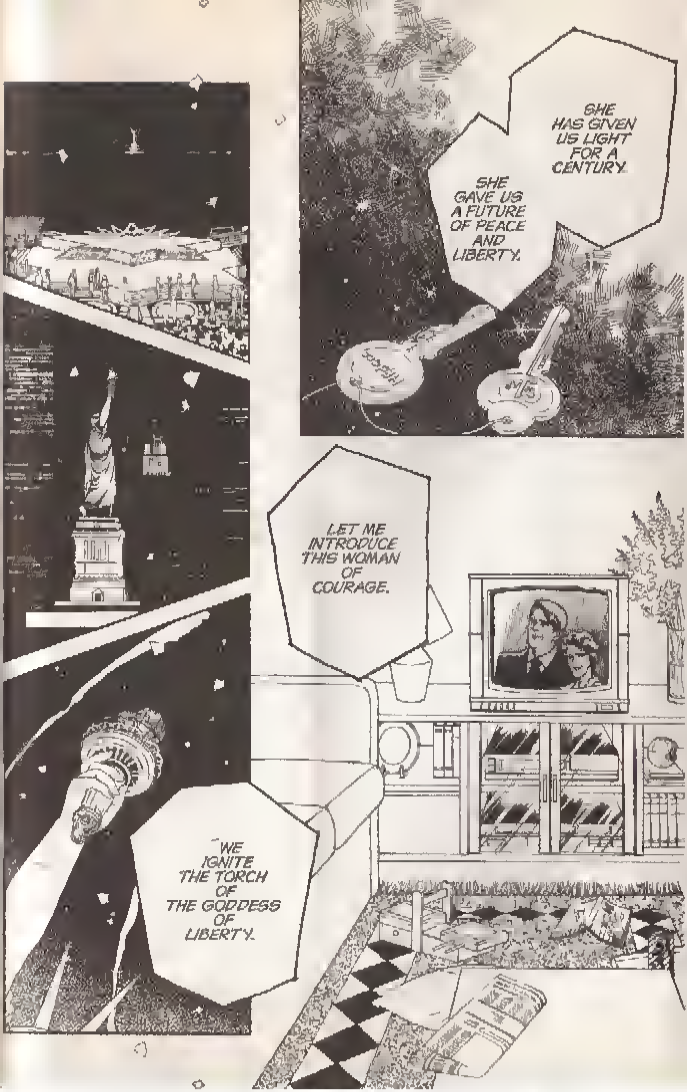
SHE HAS GIVEN US LIGHT FOR A CENTURY.
SHE GAVE US A FUTURE OF PEACE AND LIBERTY.
LET ME INTRODUCE THIS WOMAN OF COURAGE.
WE IGNITE THE TORCH OF THE GODDESS OF LIBERTY.

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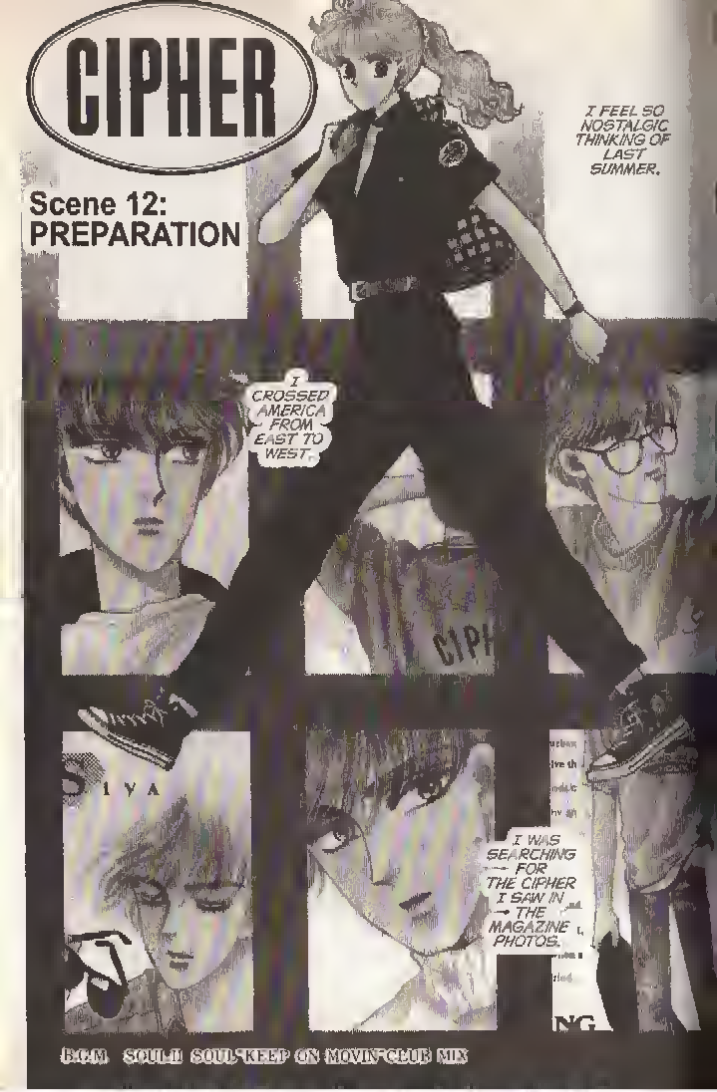
CIPHER
Scene 12:
PREPARATION
I FEEL SO NOSTALGIC THINKING OF LAST SUMMER.
I CROSSED AMERICA FROM EAST TO WEST.
I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE CIPHER I SAW IN THE MAGAZINE PHOTOS.
BGM SOUL!! SOUL'KEEP ON MOVIN'CLUB MIX

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GREAT FIREWORKS!
WHOA
INCREDIBLE!
HAL, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO WIPE THIS UP WITH?
YEAH, GIMME TWO MINUTES.
IF EVERYBODY'S THIS EXCITED THE DAY BEFORE, WHAT IS THE ACTUAL 4TH OF JULY GONNA BE LIKE?
EVERYBODY IS IN THE MOOD TO PARTY!
CREAK
HA HA HA
JUST LIKE WE ARE!

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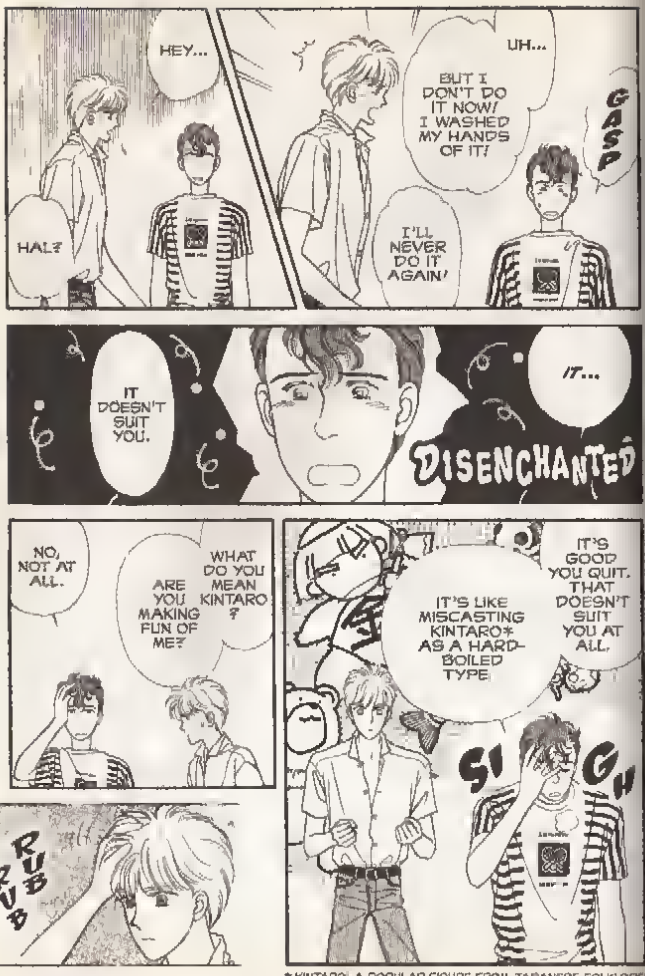

*KINTARO: A POPULAR FIGURE FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE

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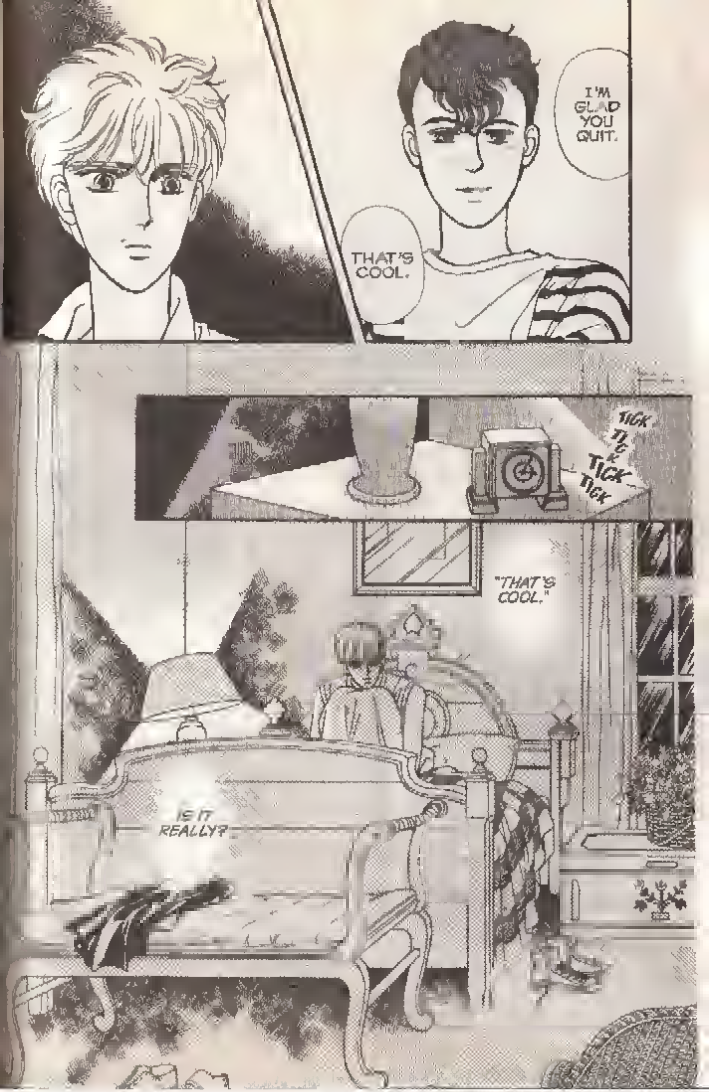

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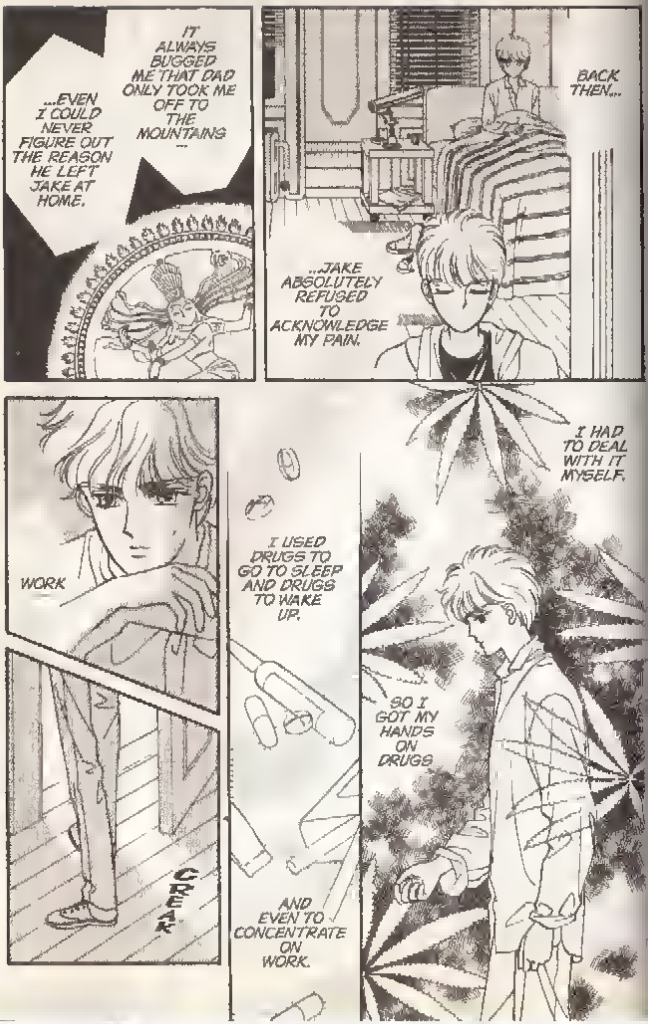
...EVEN I COULD NEVER FIGURE OUT THE REASON HE LEFT JAKE AT HOME.
IT ALWAYS BUGGED ME THAT DAD ONLY TOOK ME OFF TO THE MOUNTAINS --
BACK THEN...
...JAKE ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY PAIN.
I HAD TO DEAL WITH IT MYSELF.
WORK
I USED DRUGS TO GO TO SLEEP AND DRUGS TO WAKE UP.
SO I GOT MY HANDS ON DRUGS.
CREAK
AND EVEN TO CONCENTRATE ON WORK.

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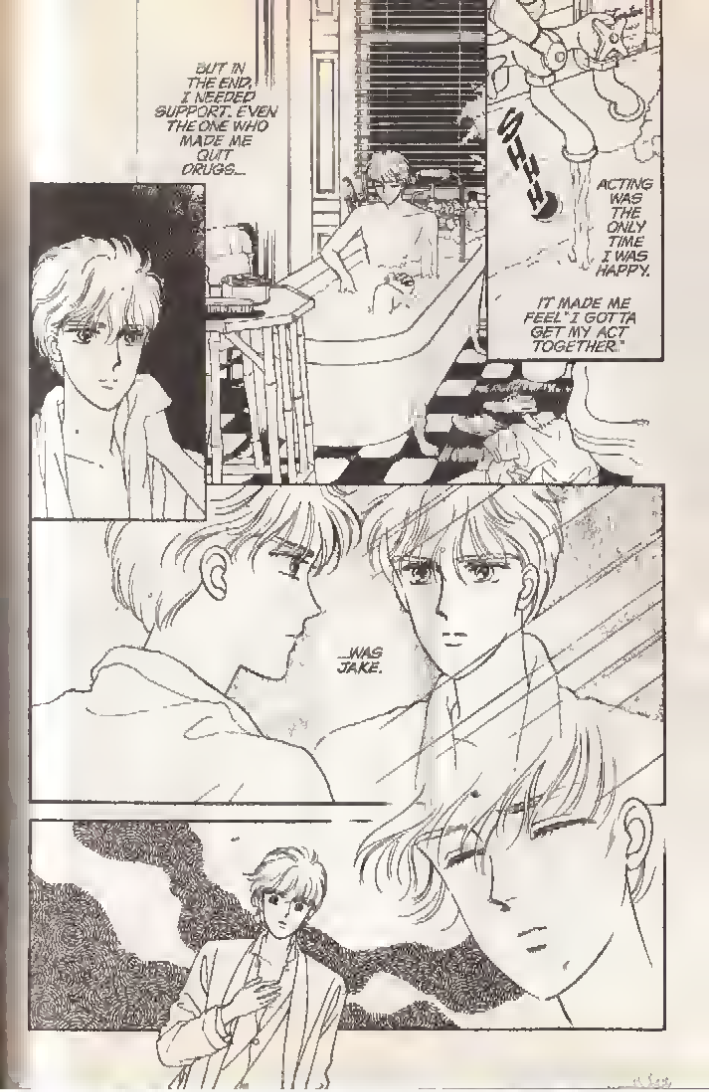
BUT IN THE END, I NEEDED SUPPORT. EVEN THE ONE WHO MADE ME QUIT DRUGS...
SHE
ACTING WAS THE ONLY TIME I WAS HAPPY.
IT MADE ME FEEL "I GOTTA GET MY ACT TOGETHER."
...WAS JAKE.

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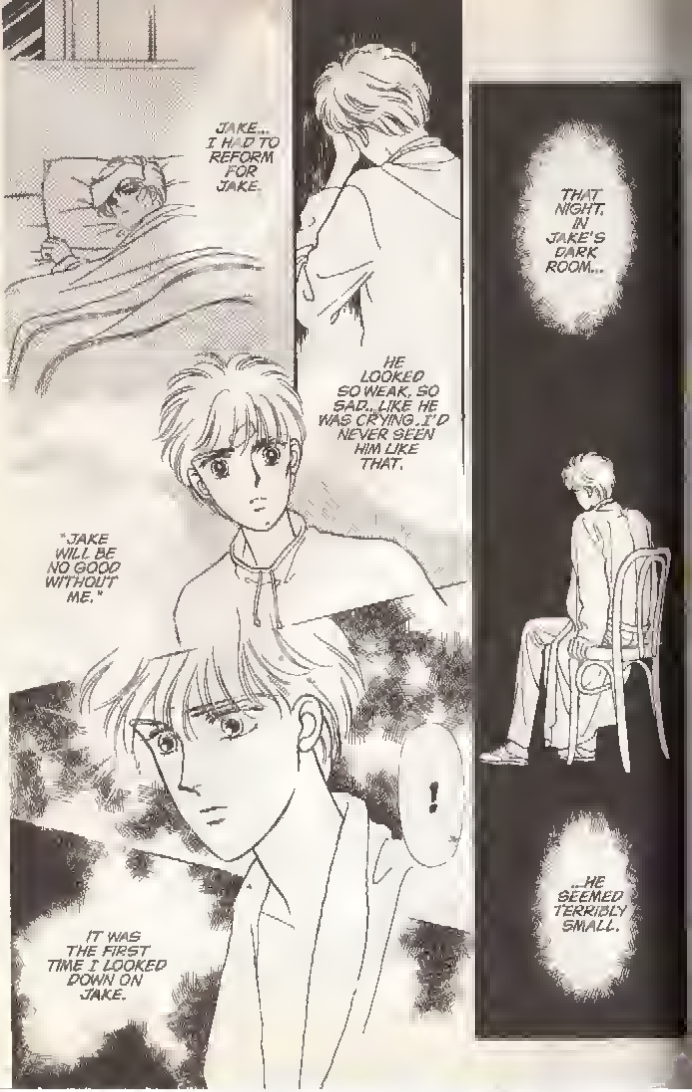
JAKE... I HAD TO REFORM FOR JAKE.
HE LOOKED SO WEAK, SO SAD... LIKE HE WAS CRYING. I'D NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THAT.
"JAKE WILL BE NO GOOD WITHOUT ME."
!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I LOOKED DOWN ON JAKE.
THAT NIGHT, IN JAKE'S DARK ROOM...
...HE SEEMED TERRIBLY SMALL.

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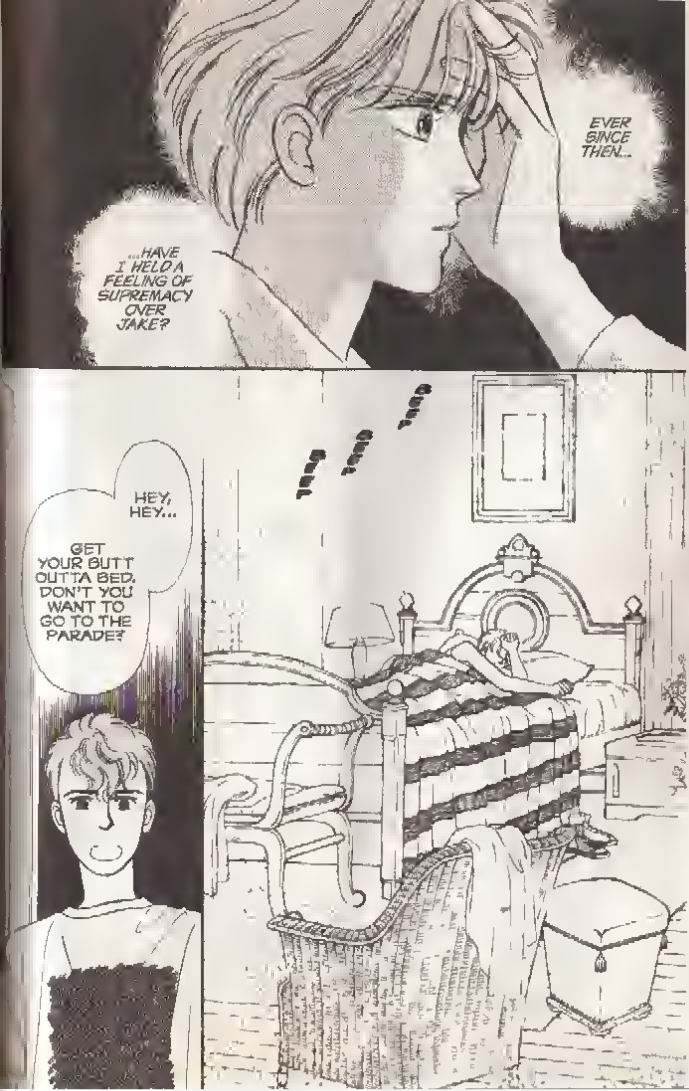
...HAVE I HELD A FEELING OF SUPREMACY OVER JAKE?
EVER SINCE THEN...
HEY, HEY...
GET YOUR BUTT OUTTA BED. DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE PARADE?

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UGH...
EVERYONE ELSE ALREADY LEFT.
HEY, I SAID
ROY?!
AH...
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE DIDN'T DRINK THAT MUCH LAST NIGHT.
WHAT KIND OF B.S. ARE YOU TALKING?
YOU MEAN ABOUT DRUGS?
I TOTALLY BUCK.
THINKING ABOUT A BUNCH OF STUFF HAS MADE ME ALL DEPRESSED.

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HAL...
OF COURSE IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE.
HAL, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU'D HURT SOMEONE?
I JUST HATE MYSELF
NO...
I'M EVEN AFRAID TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT
I TOLD A BIG LIE TO ALL MY FRIENDS
.....
THAT'S SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO, IS THERE?
.....
I'D APOLO-GIZE.

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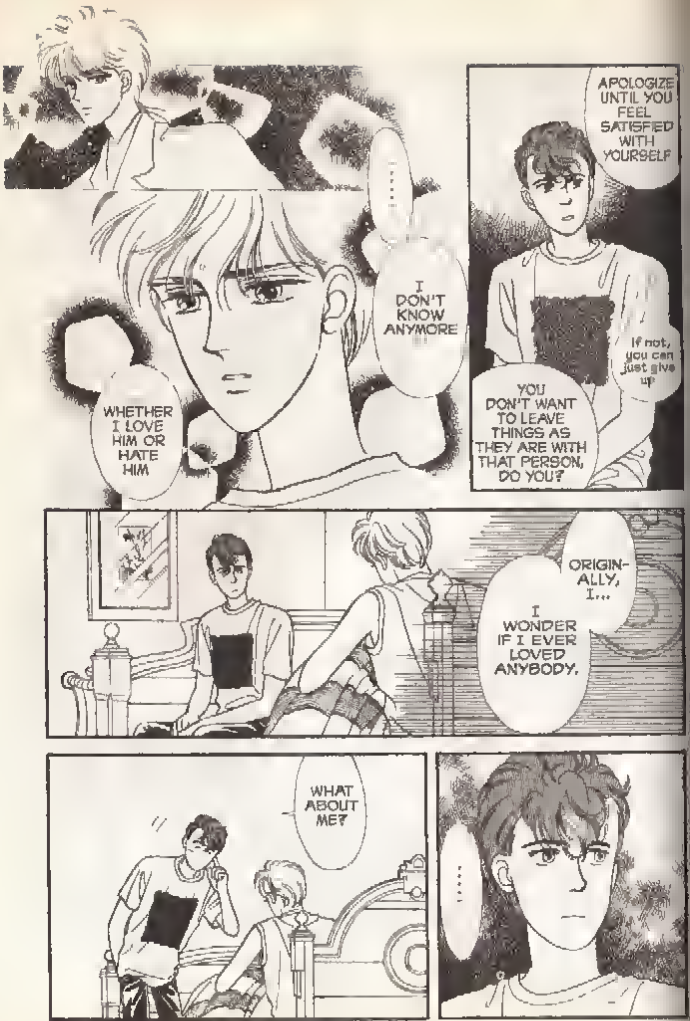
APOLOGIZE UNTIL YOU FEEL SATISFIED WITH YOURSELF
If not, you can just give up
YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE WITH THAT PERSON, DO YOU?
.....
I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
WHETHER I LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM
ORIGIN-ALLY, I...
I WONDER IF I EVER LOVED ANYBODY.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
.....

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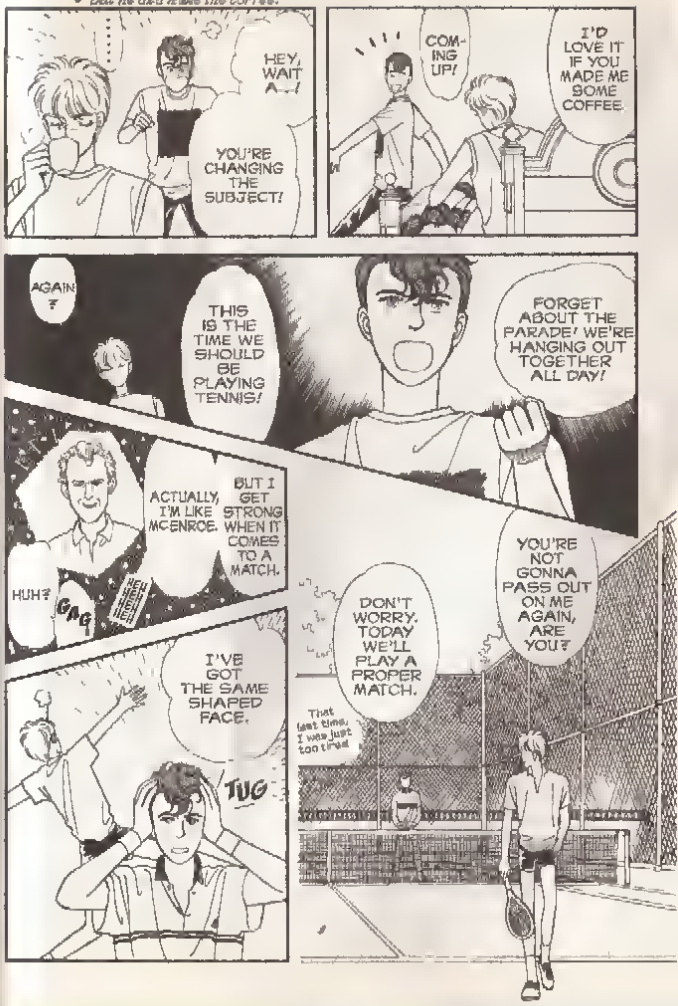
But he did make the coffee.
HEY, WAIT A...!
YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT!
COMING UP!
I'D LOVE IT IF YOU MADE ME SOME COFFEE.
AGAIN?
THIS IS THE TIME WE SHOULD BE PLAYING TENNIS!
FORGET ABOUT THE PARADE! WE'RE HANGING OUT TOGETHER ALL DAY!
ACTUALLY, I'M LIKE MCENROE.
BUT I GET STRONG WHEN IT COMES TO A MATCH.
HUH?
GAG
I'VE GOT THE SAME SHAPED FACE.
TUG
DON'T WORRY. TODAY WE'LL PLAY A PROPER MATCH.
That last time, I was just too tired.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA PASS OUT ON ME AGAIN, ARE YOU?

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NO THANKS!
YOU'LL GET STRONGER TOO IF YOU MAKE YOUR FACE LIKE THAT
SMIRK
OKAY, IT'S YOUR LOSS
PEW
WITH A SERVE LIKE THAT...
I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE A STEP.
FIFTEEN LOVE.

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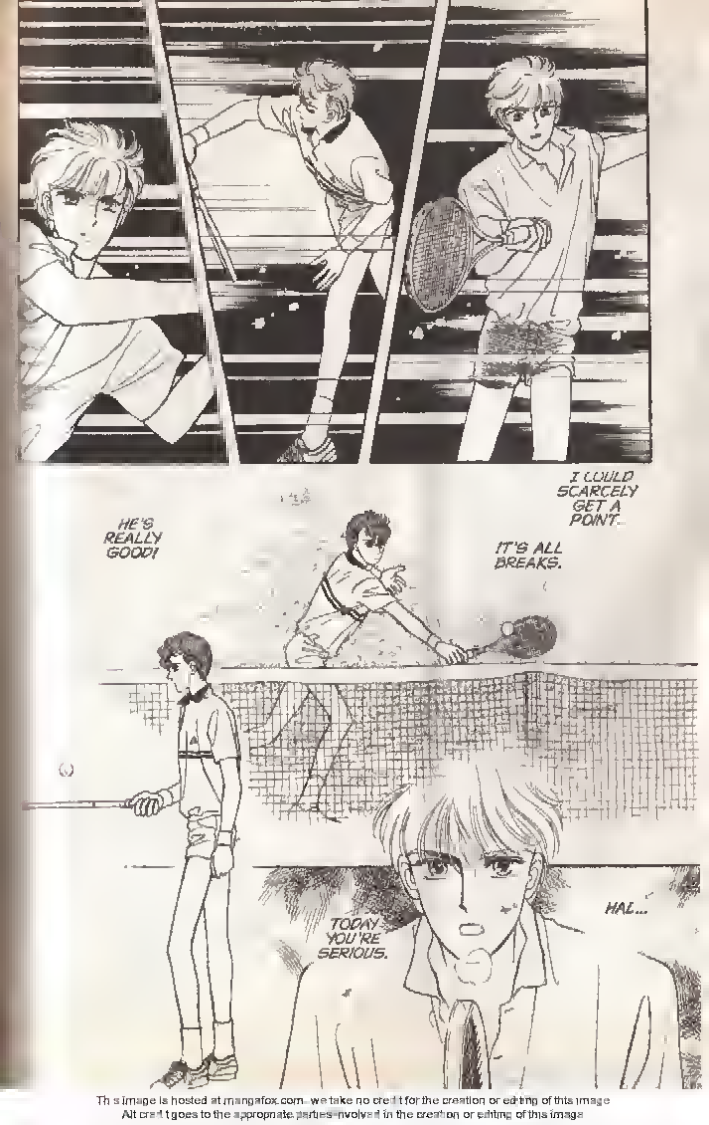

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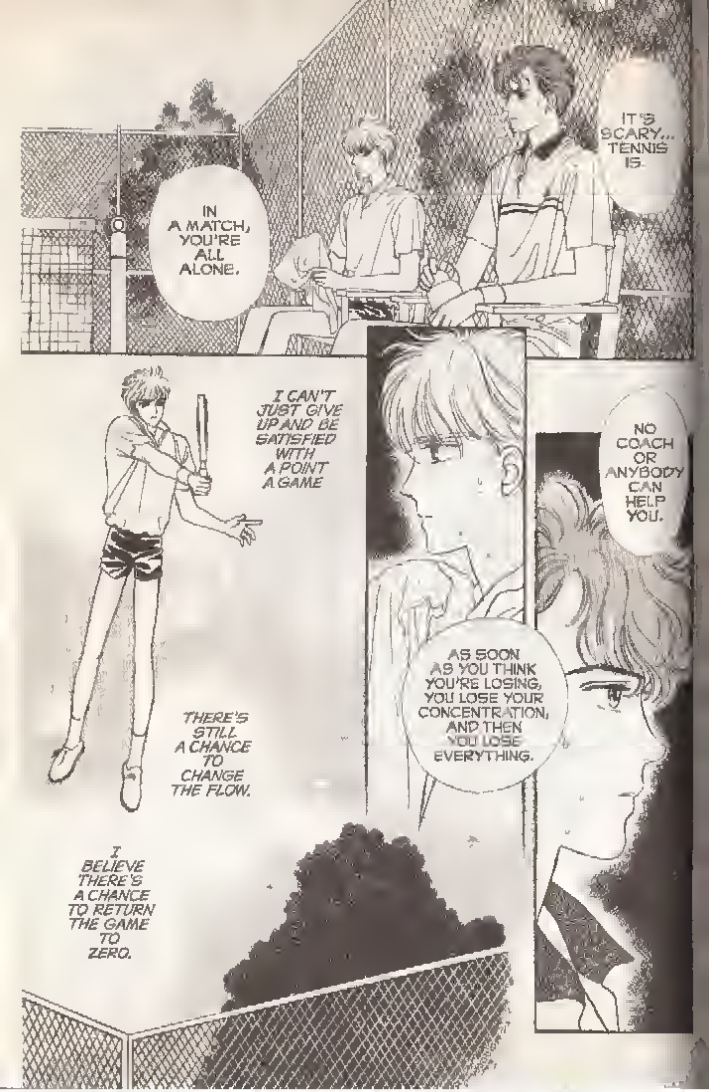
IT'S SCARY... TENNIS IS.
IN A MATCH, YOU'RE ALL ALONE.
I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP AND BE SATISFIED WITH A POINT A GAME
NO COACH OR ANYBODY CAN HELP YOU.
AS SOON AS YOU THINK YOU'RE LOSING, YOU LOSE YOUR CONCENTRATION, AND THEN YOU LOSE EVERYTHING.
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE FLOW.
I BELIEVE THERE'S A CHANCE TO RETURN THE GAME TO ZERO.

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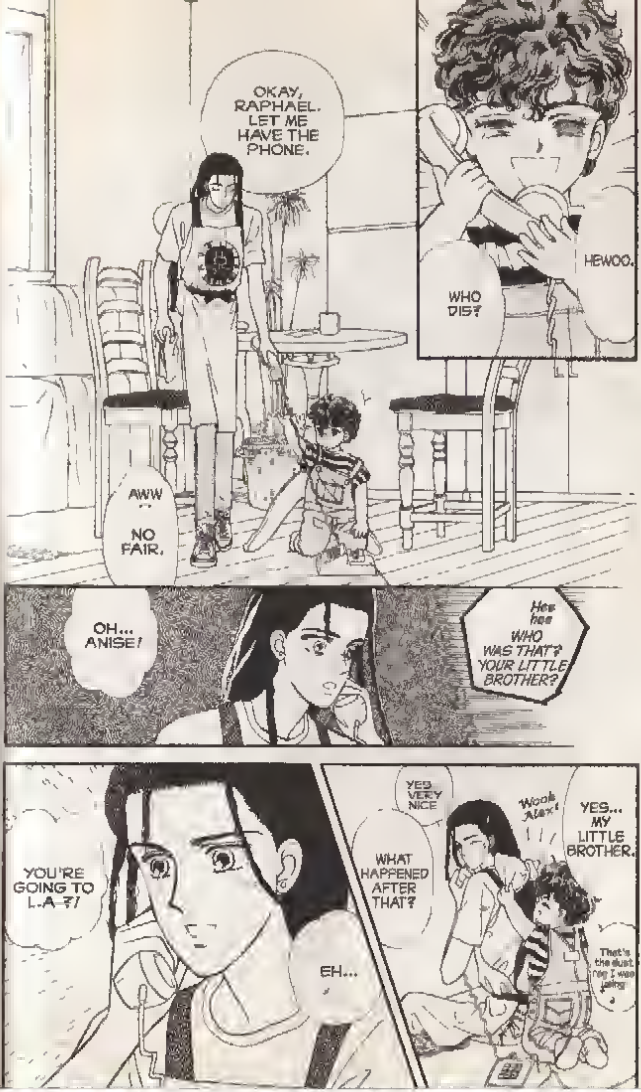

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I'M ACTUALLY AT THE AIRPORT RIGHT NOW.
I ACTED KINDA STUPID TO HIM RECENTLY.
TELL SIVA HELLO FOR ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STUPID"? ?
UH... WELL...
Wap wap
EH...
THAT'S GREAT!
BWA HA HA HA HA
THAT MUSTA REALLY SHOCKED JAKE!
N-NO... HE...
LOOK OUT FOR RUTH, TOO.
OH, BY THE WAY
RUTH?
RELAX AND GO ON YOUR TRIP.
IT'S OKAY! HE'S GOT A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE.
What do you mean ex-ex-fiancée?
THANKS FOR LAUGHING AT IT.
YEAH...

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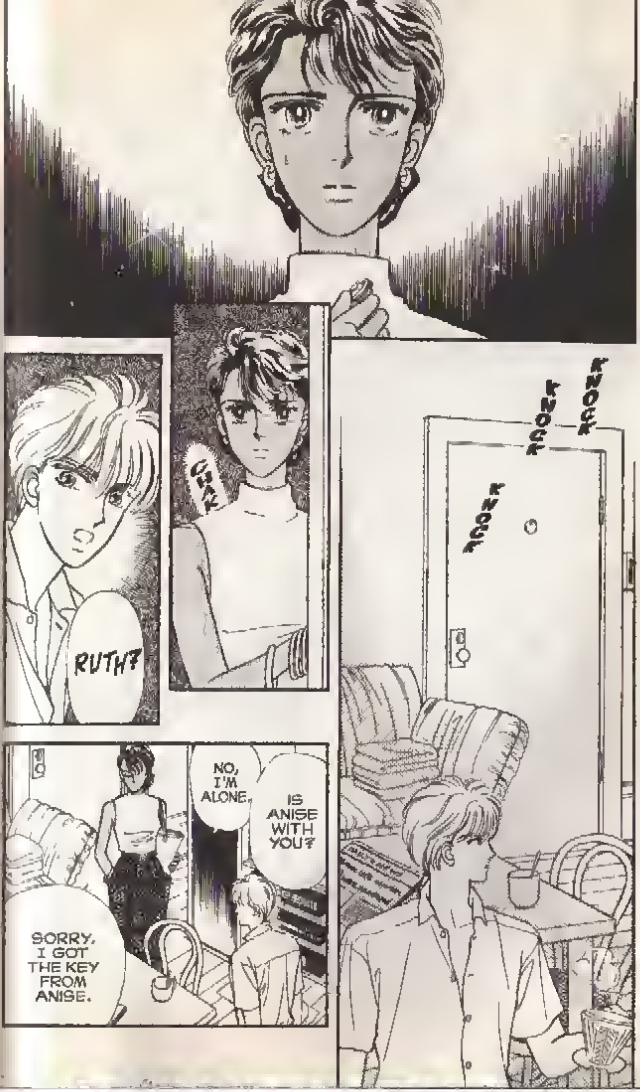

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SHE LEFT FOR L.A. TODAY
HUFF
SHE DID?
I SEE...
SO SHE WENT.
SHE TOLD ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE SHE WAS GONE, AND GAVE ME THE KEYS.
ANY-WAY
I GUESS I'LL START BY CLEANING UP.
I'LL COME OVER AS MUCH AS I CAN.
HUH?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

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I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT...
I'M GONNA FIND OUT FOR SURE WHICH SIVA THIS IS!
GO FOR IT! UNTIL I'M CERTAIN.
BAM
LEVINE
LET ME CRASH HERE FOR A WHILE!

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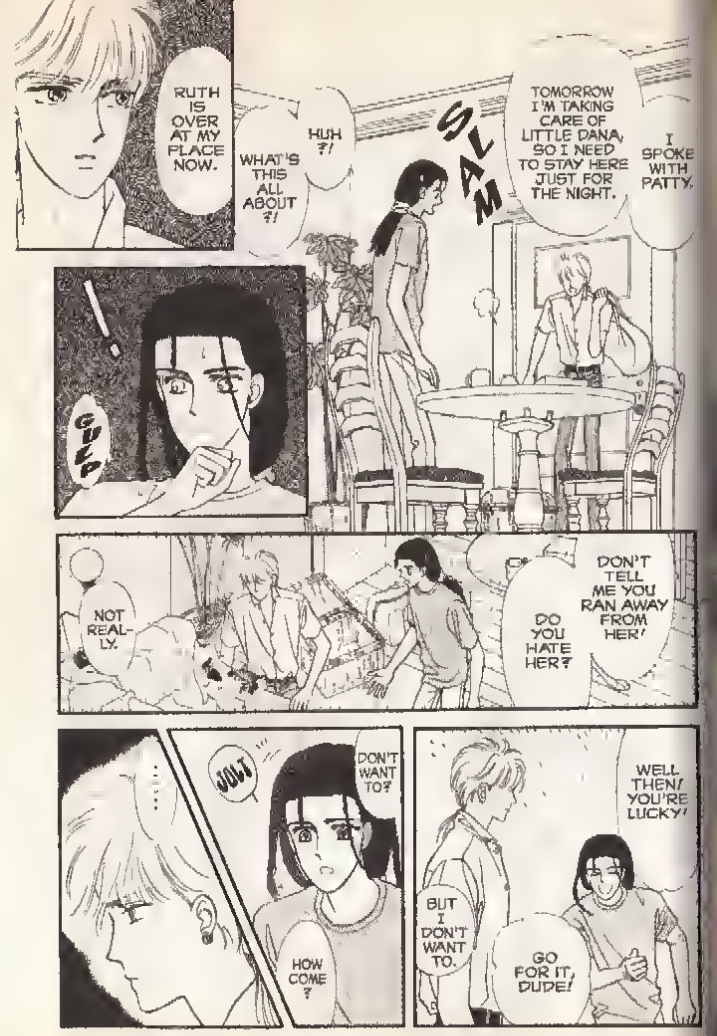
RUTH IS OVER AT MY PLACE NOW.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!
HUH?!
SLAM
TOMORROW I'M TAKING CARE OF LITTLE DANA, SO I NEED TO STAY HERE JUST FOR THE NIGHT.
I SPOKE WITH PATTY.
GULP
NOT REALLY.
DO YOU HATE HER?
DON'T TELL ME YOU RAN AWAY FROM HER!
.....
JEEZ
DON'T WANT TO?
HOW COME?
WELL THEN, YOU'RE LUCKY!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO.
GO FOR IT, DUDE!

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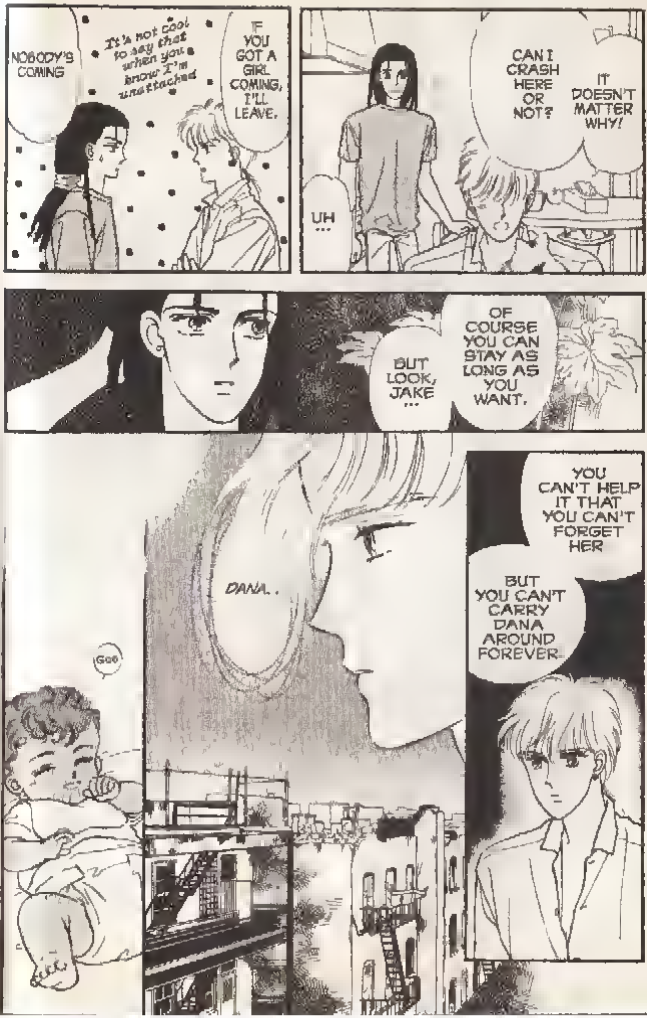
NOBODY'S COMING
It's not cool to say that when you know I'm unattached
IF YOU GOT A GIRL COMING, I'LL LEAVE.
UH ...
CAN I CRASH HERE OR NOT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY!
BUT LOOK, JAKE ...
OF COURSE YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU WANT.
DANA..
Goo
YOU CAN'T HELP IT THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET HER
BUT YOU CAN'T CARRY DANA AROUND FOREVER.

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THE SONG FOR LEVINE WAS WRITTEN BY ROD ANTOON, A GUY FROM THE BAND I LOVE CALLED CAMEO. (HE'S ALSO PRODUCED KUBOTA RISHIN AND GWINKO). THIS SONG IS GREAT, TOO!

SOME OTHER SONGS ARE BEING DONE IN LONDON RIGHT NOW. THE COORDINATOR IS PUTTING TOGETHER A DEMO RIGHT NOW IN A PLACE CALLED WOLF STUDIO. I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT BEING FINISHED. ALMOST NO JAPANESE WORKED ON THE PROJECT. WE PLANNED FOR IT TO SOUND LIKE A FOREIGN SOUNDTRACK.

"There's even a song for Hal."

PEOPLE WHO AREN'T USED TO FOREIGN MUSIC MIGHT THINK IT'S A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT I THOUGHT OF HAL'S SONG AS LONDON AND LEVINE'S AS AMERICA. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS SELFISH DREAM OF MINE A REALITY. IT GOES ON SALE JULY 21, 1990. NOW I HAVE TO DRAW THE ALBUM COVER!

WE DECIDED I'D SWITCH BACK AND FORTH FROM BIG MAMA'S PLACE TO LEVINE'S PLACE BABYSITTING.

THAT WAY WOULD BE LESS LONELY FOR ELLIE AND BIG MAMA'S KIDS.

AND LEVINE WAS A REAL VETERAN WITH THE KIDS.

WAH!

LOOK, DANA. IT'S RAINING. SEE THAT?

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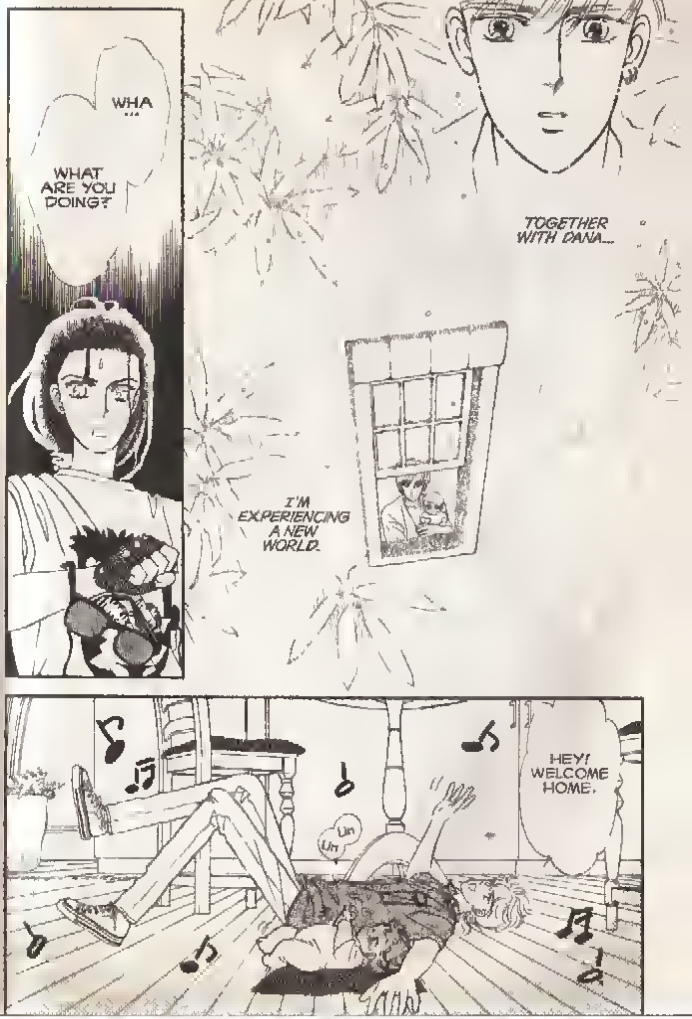

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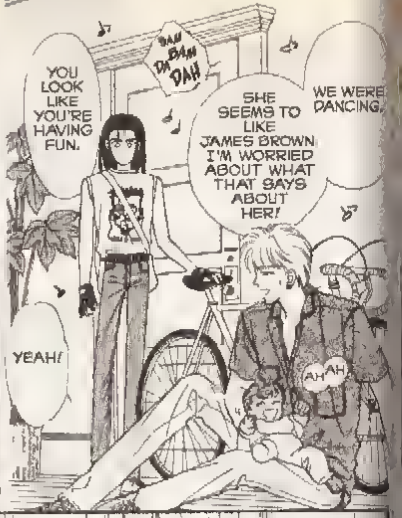
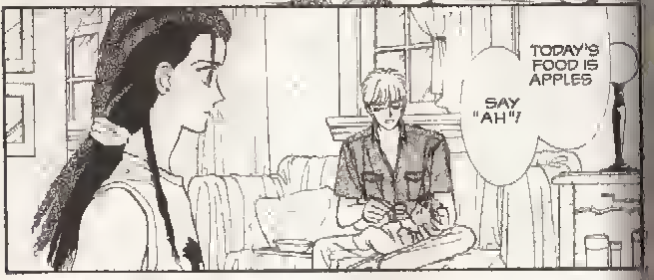
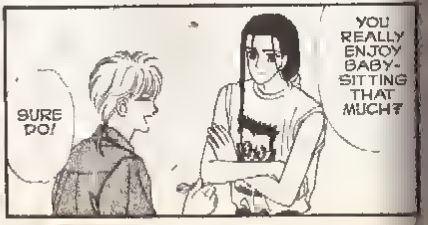

BAM BAM DA DAH
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
SHE SEEMS TO LIKE JAMES BROWN. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT HER!
WE WERE DANCING.
YEAH!
AH AH





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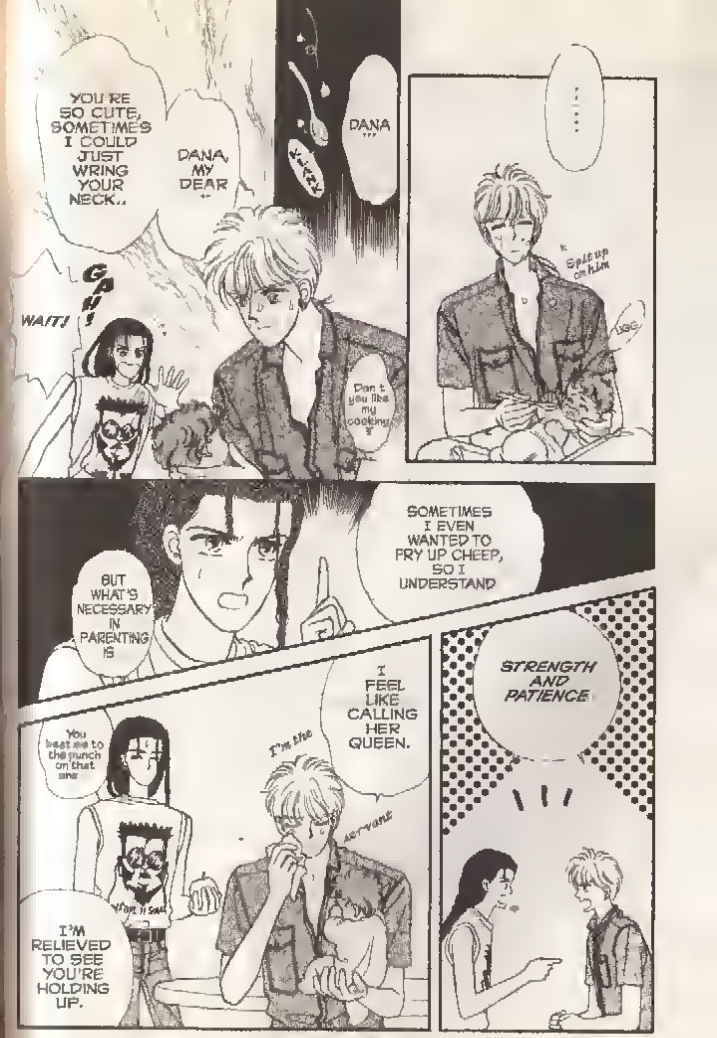
YOU'RE SO CUTE, SOMETIMES I COULD JUST WRING YOUR NECK..
DANA, MY DEAR
DANA...
GAH!
WAIT!
Don't you like my cooking?
Spit up on him
Ugg
SOMETIMES I EVEN WANTED TO FRY UP CHEEP, SO I UNDERSTAND
BUT WHAT'S NECESSARY IN PARENTING IS
STRENGTH AND PATIENCE
I FEEL LIKE CALLING HER QUEEN.
You beat me to the punch on that one
I'm the servant
What'd Sad
I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU'RE HOLDING UP.

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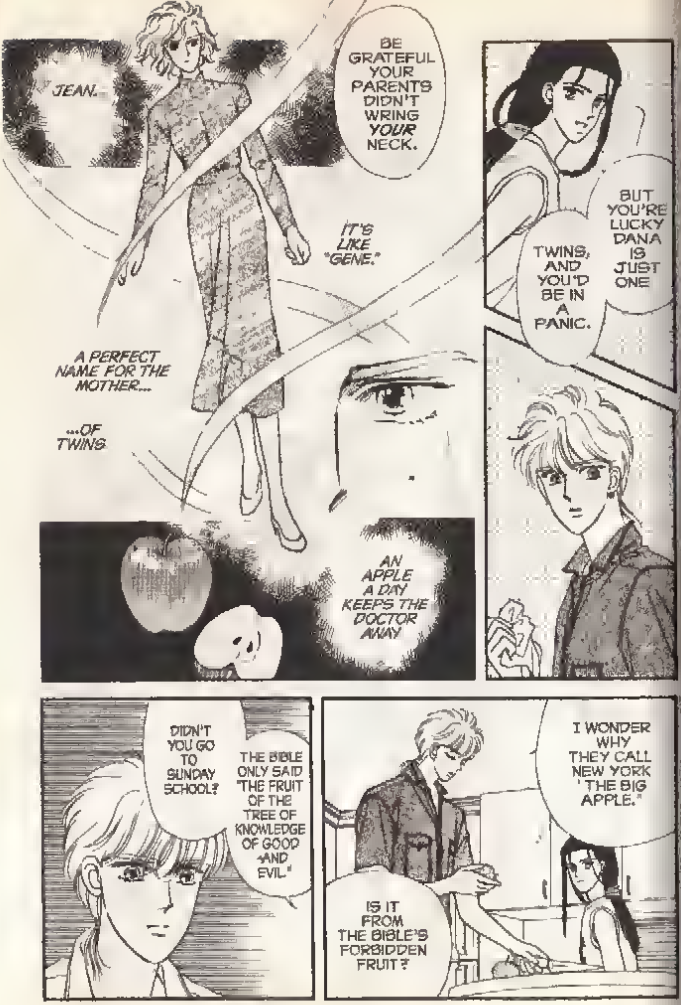
JEAN...
BE GRATEFUL YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T WRING YOUR NECK.
IT'S LIKE "GENE."
A PERFECT NAME FOR THE MOTHER...
...OF TWINS
AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY DANA IS JUST ONE
TWINS, AND YOU'D BE IN A PANIC.
DIDN'T YOU GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?
THE BIBLE ONLY SAID "THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL."
I WONDER WHY THEY CALL NEW YORK "THE BIG APPLE."
IS IT FROM THE BIBLE'S FORBIDDEN FRUIT?

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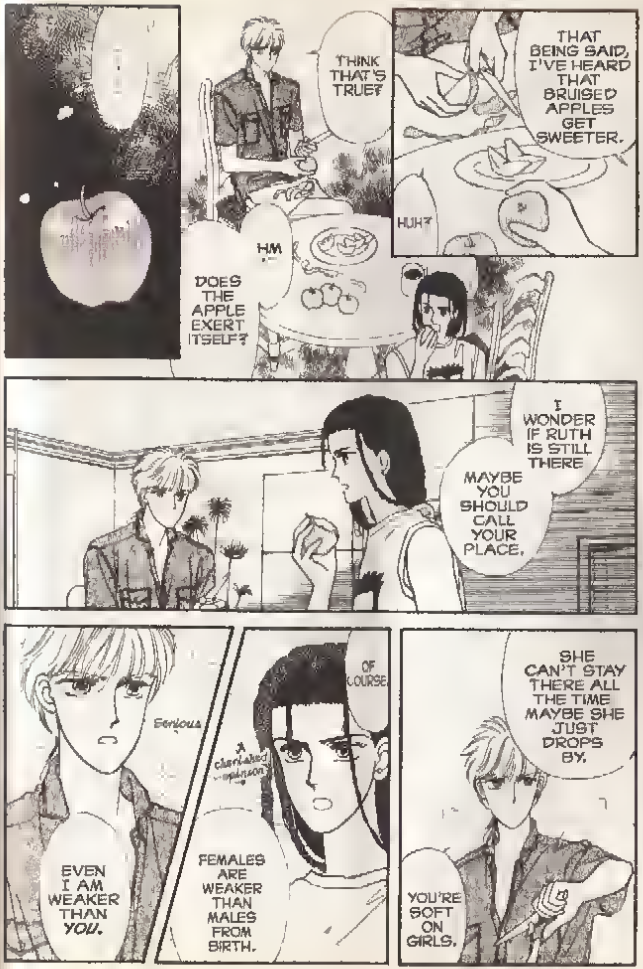
DOES THE APPLE EXERT ITSELF?
HM
I THINK THAT'S TRUE?
HUH?
THAT BEING SAID, I'VE HEARD THAT BRUISED APPLES GET SWEETER.
I WONDER IF RUTH IS STILL THERE
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR PLACE.
SHE CAN'T STAY THERE ALL THE TIME MAYBE SHE JUST DROPS BY.
YOU'RE SOFT ON GIRLS.
OF COURSE
A chauvinist opinion
FEMALES ARE WEAKER THAN MALES FROM BIRTH.
Serious
EVEN I AM WEAKER THAN YOU.

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YOU'RE BOSSING ME AROUND A LOT.
YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY TESTY LATELY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU MAKE ME DO IT!
JUST CALL HER DAMNIT!
I got punched again.
DON'T BRAG ABOUT IT!
I DON'T TALK BACK BECAUSE I'M SO STUPID.
YOU DUMMY
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING
. . . .
DO YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE ?
JAKE?

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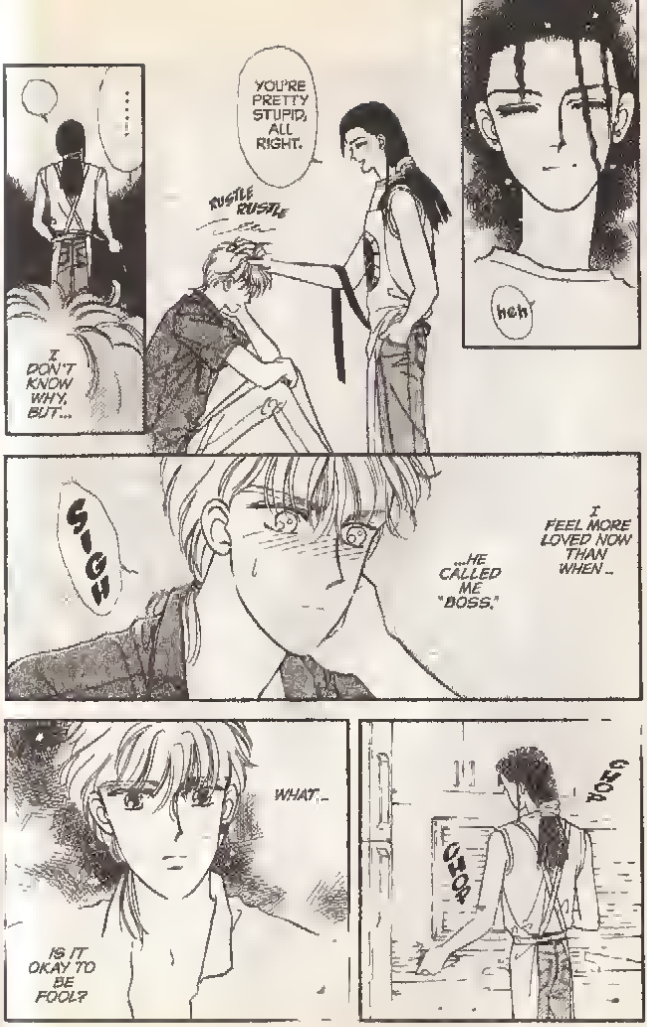

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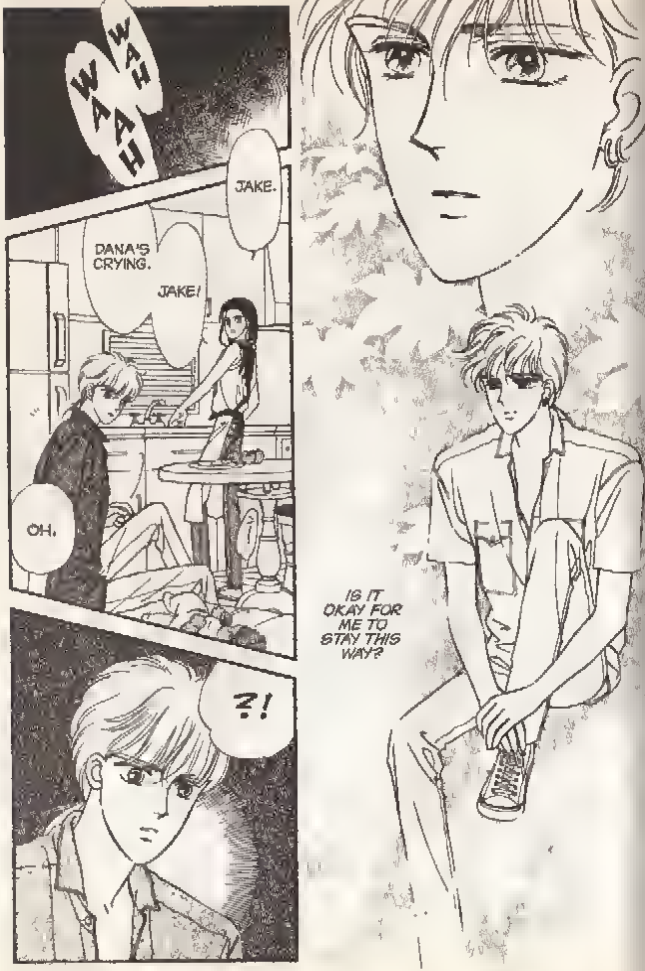

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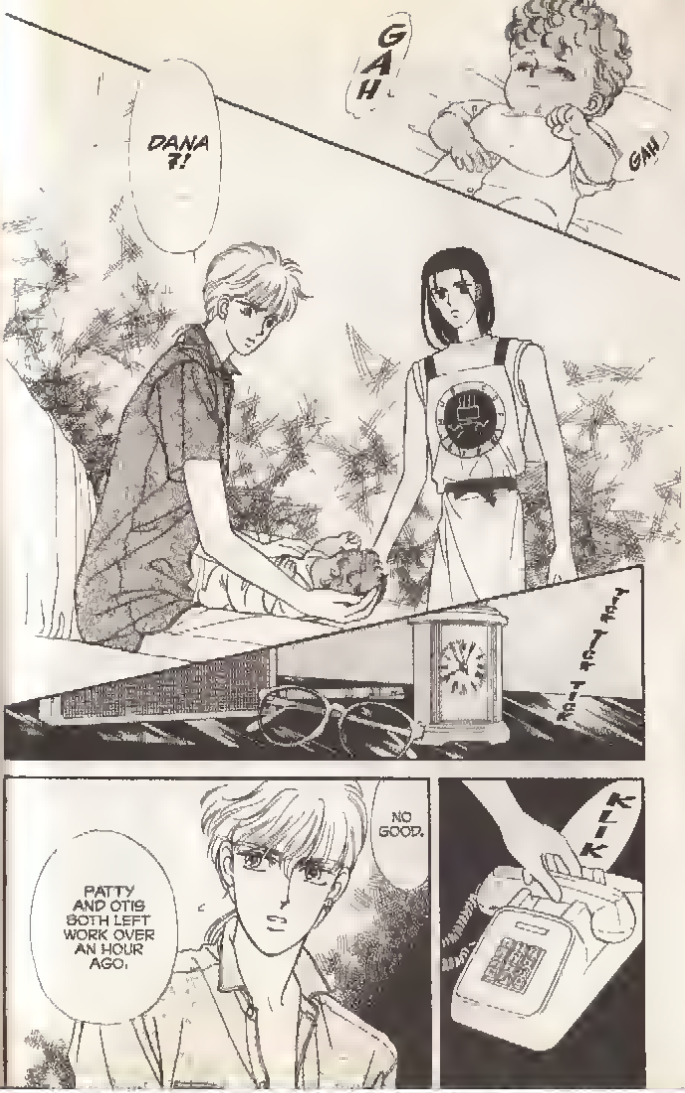

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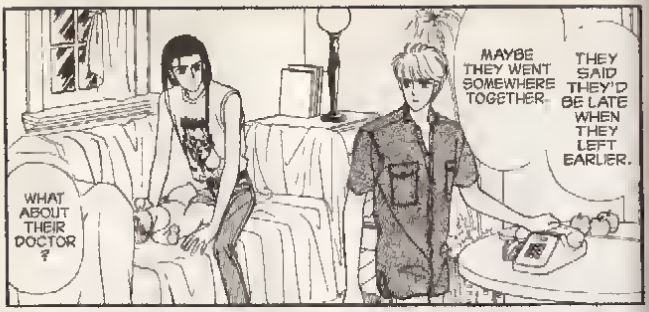

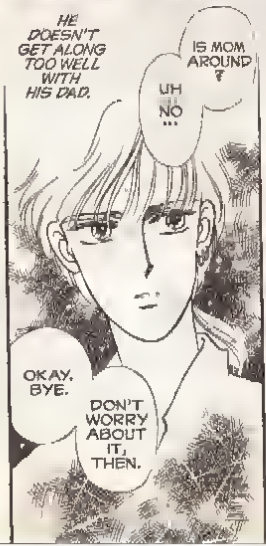

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JAKE.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU
HELLO. YOU MUST BE THE ONE THAT I SPOKE TO BEFORE
ALEX, IS IT?
MY, MY.
SO THIS IS THE LITTLE CRYBABY.
COME IN
YES, MA'AM.
DID SHE THROW UP OR POOP ANYTHING STRANGE RECENTLY?
SOME APPLE, BEFORE

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LOOKS LIKE IT FLEW PRETTY FAR.
REAL-LY?
SHE JUST SPIT IT OUT OF HER MOUTH, NOT HER STOMACH.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. SHE'S MOVING AROUND HEALTHILY
HMM... SHE FEELS A LITTLE WARM.
MAN...
NO NEED TO BOTHER WITH A DOCTOR.
SHE SHOULD BE FINE BY TOMORROW. JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
OH...
SHE'S GOOD AT THIS.

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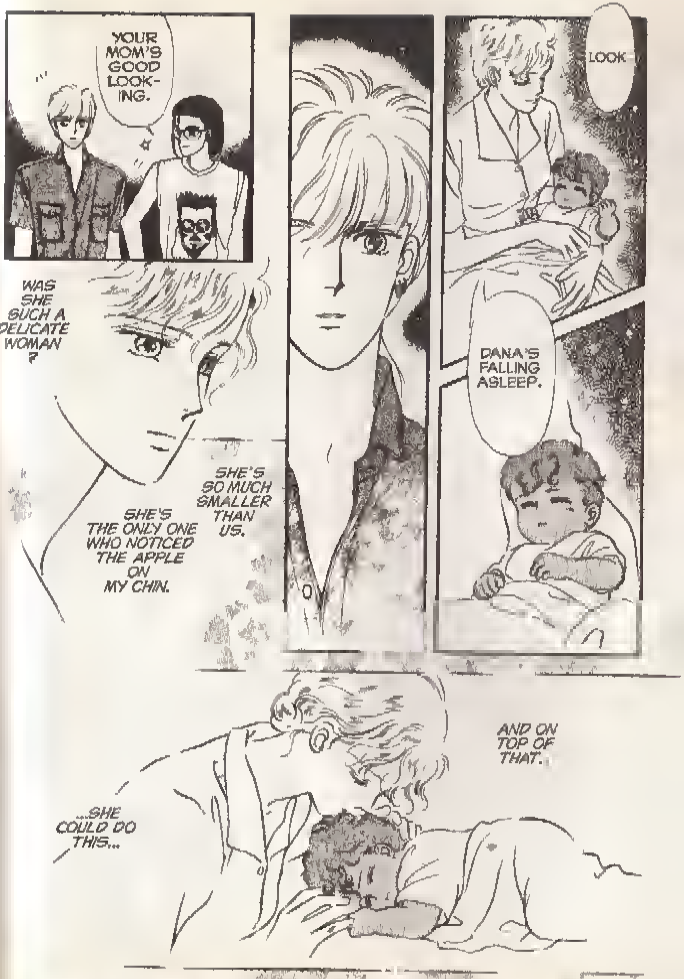
YOUR MOM'S GOOD LOOK-ING.
WAS SHE SUCH A DELICATE WOMAN ?
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED THE APPLE ON MY CHIN.
SHE'S SO MUCH SMALLER THAN US.
LOOK
DANA'S FALLING ASLEEP.
AND ON TOP OF THAT.
...SHE COULD DO THIS...

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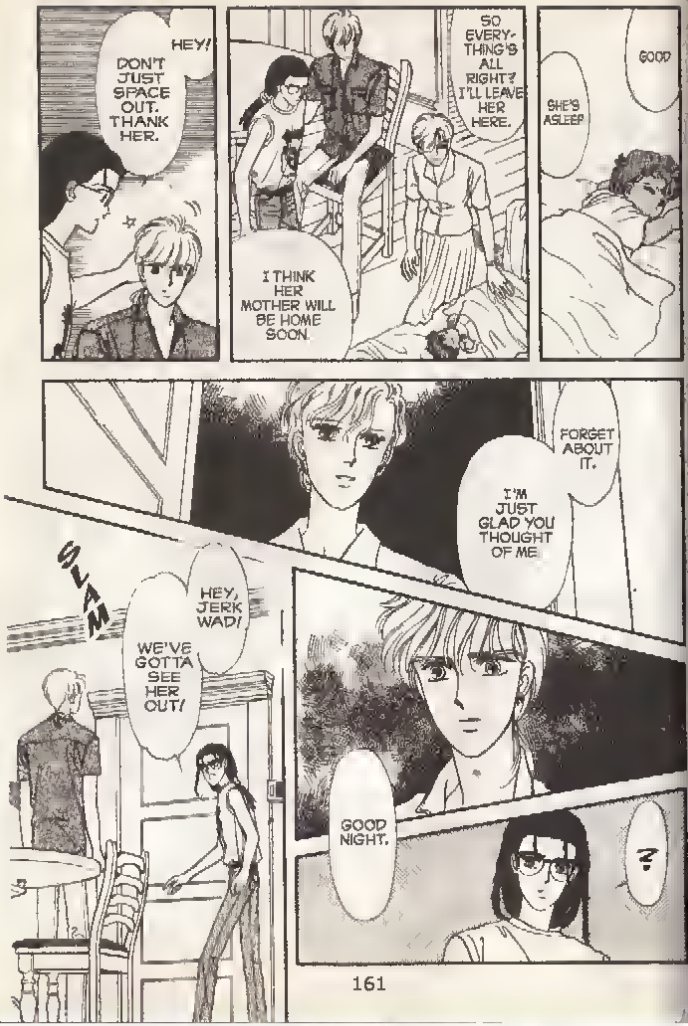
HEY! DON'T JUST SPACE OUT. THANK HER.
I THINK HER MOTHER WILL BE HOME SOON.
SO EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT? I'LL LEAVE HER HERE.
SHE'S ASLEEP
GOOD
FORGET ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU THOUGHT OF ME.
?
GOOD NIGHT.
SLAM
HEY, JERK WAD!
WE'VE GOTTA SEE HER OUT!

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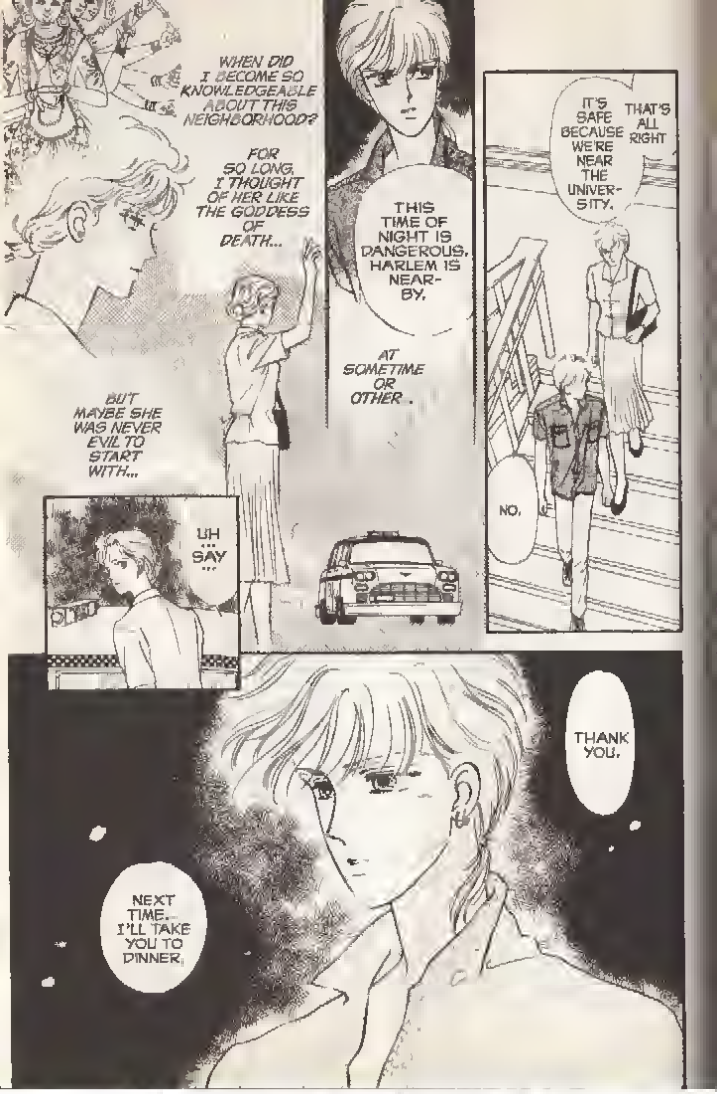
WHEN DID I BECOME SO KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?
FOR SO LONG, I THOUGHT OF HER LIKE THE GODDESS OF DEATH...
BUT MAYBE SHE WAS NEVER EVIL TO START WITH...
THIS TIME OF NIGHT IS DANGEROUS. HARLEM IS NEAR-BY.
AT SOMETIME OR OTHER.
UH ... SAY ...
IT'S SAFE BECAUSE WE'RE NEAR THE UNIVER-SITY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT
NO.
THANK YOU.
NEXT TIME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO DINNER.

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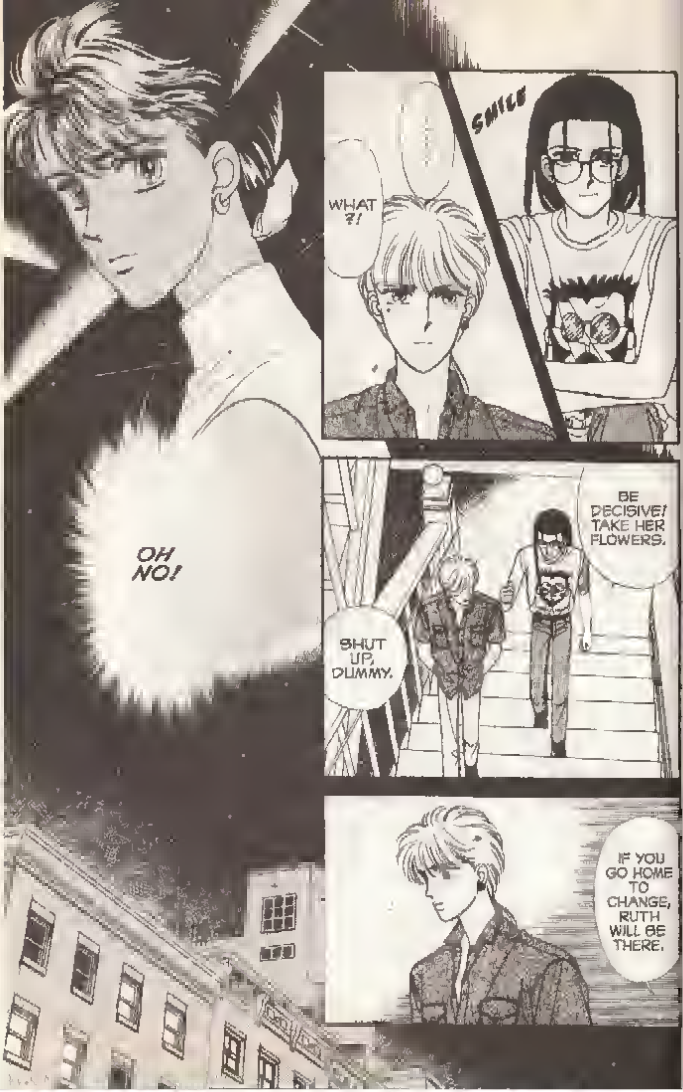

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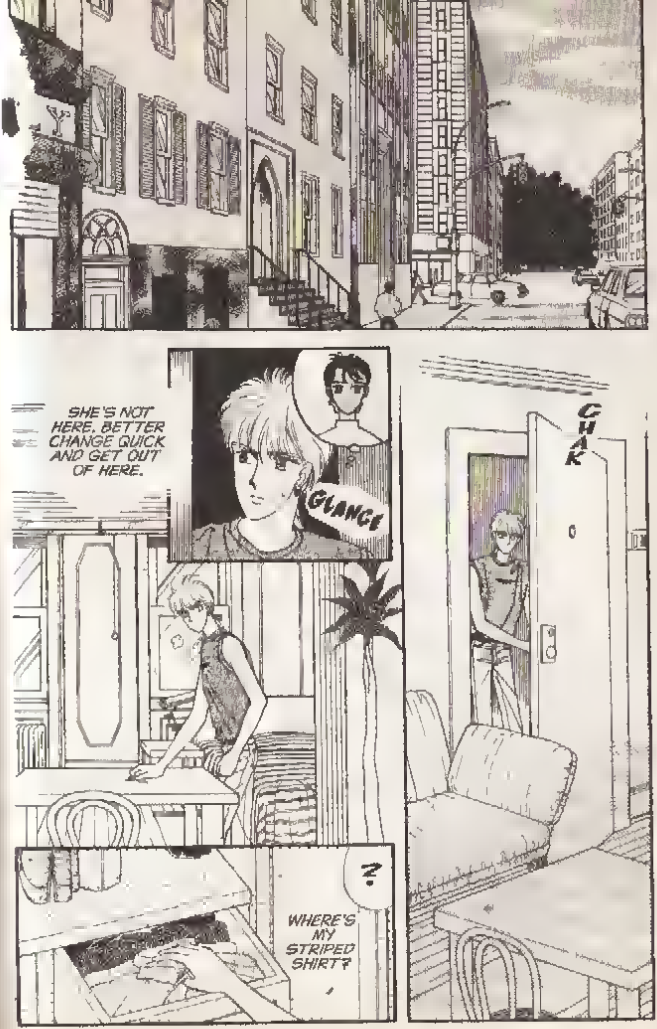

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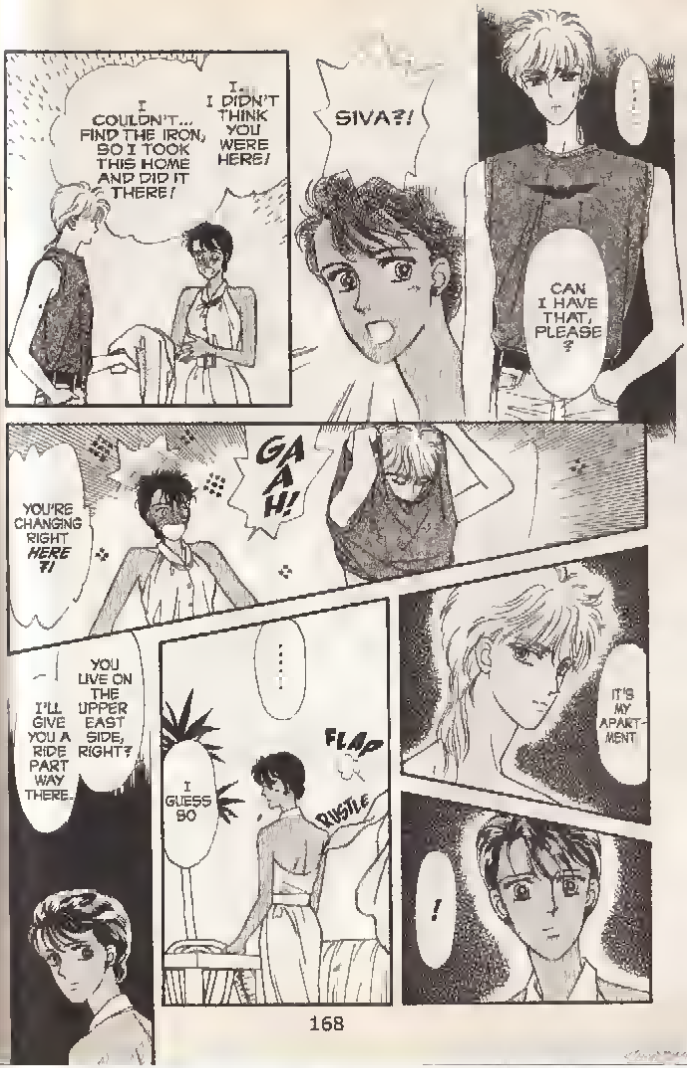
I COULDN'T... FIND THE IRON, SO I TOOK THIS HOME AND DID IT THERE!
I... I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE HERE!
SIVA?!
...
CAN I HAVE THAT, PLEASE?
GA A H!
YOU'RE CHANGING RIGHT HERE?!
YOU LIVE ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE, RIGHT?
I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE PART WAY THERE.
I GUESS SO
FLAP
RUSTLE
IT'S MY APARTMENT
!

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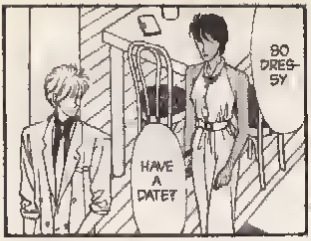

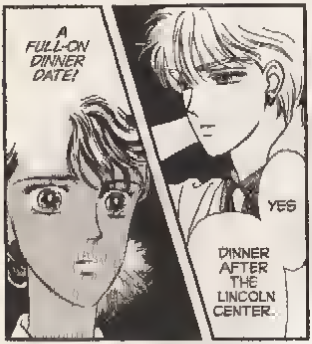

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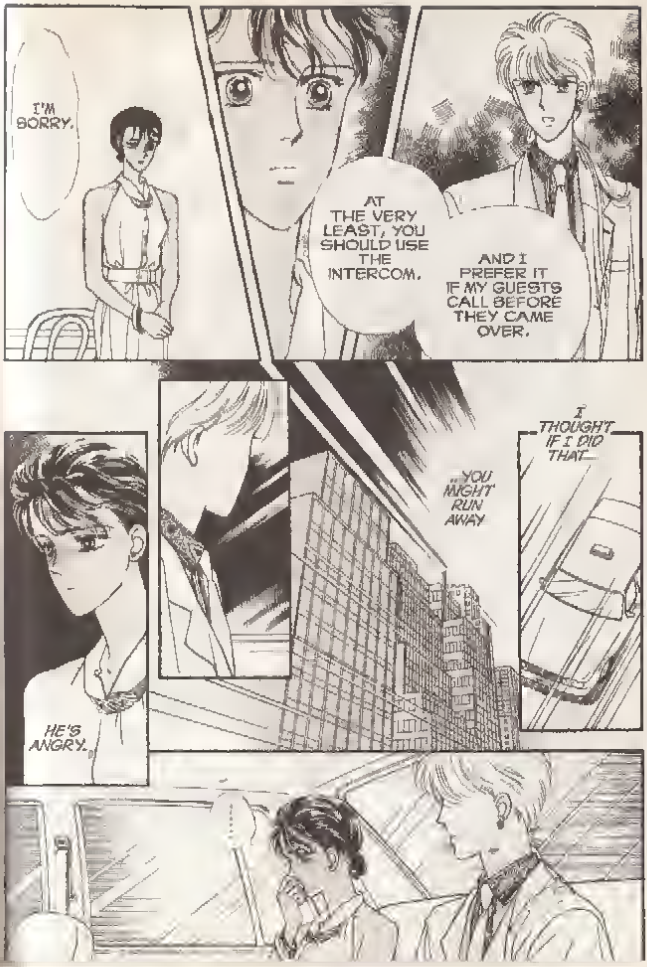
I'M SORRY.
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU SHOULD USE THE INTERCOM.
AND I PREFER IT IF MY GUESTS CALL BEFORE THEY CAME OVER.
I THOUGHT IF I DID THAT...
...YOU MIGHT RUN AWAY
HE'S ANGRY...

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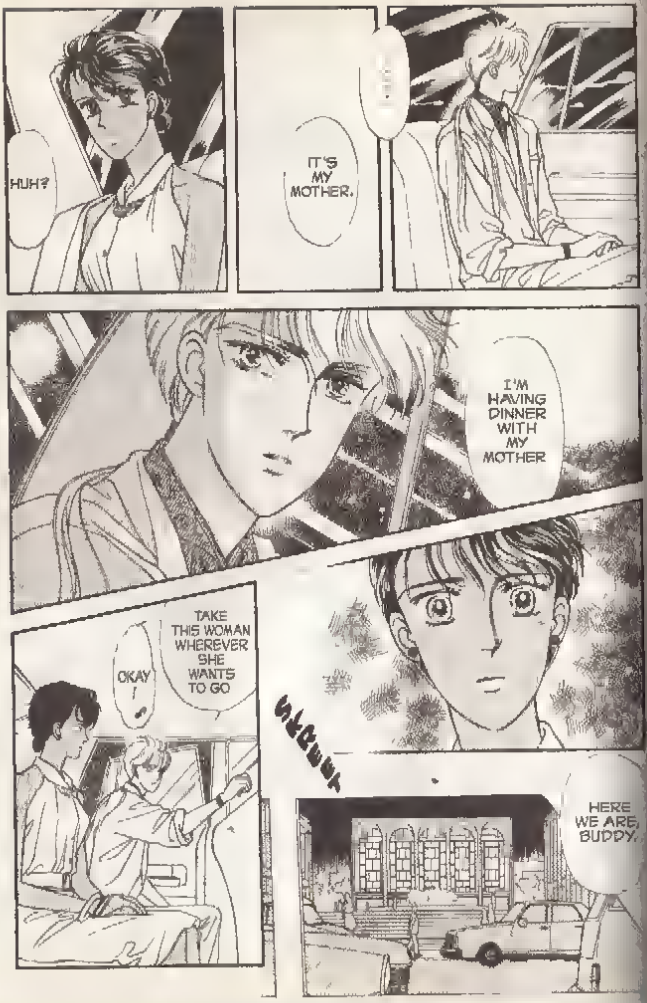

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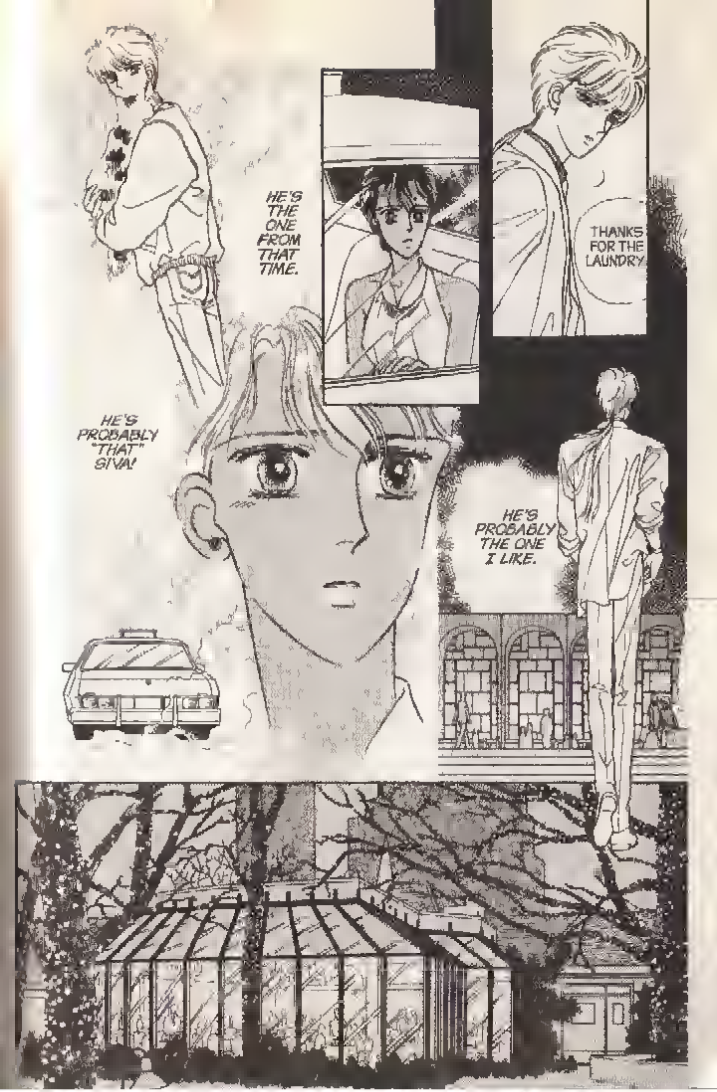

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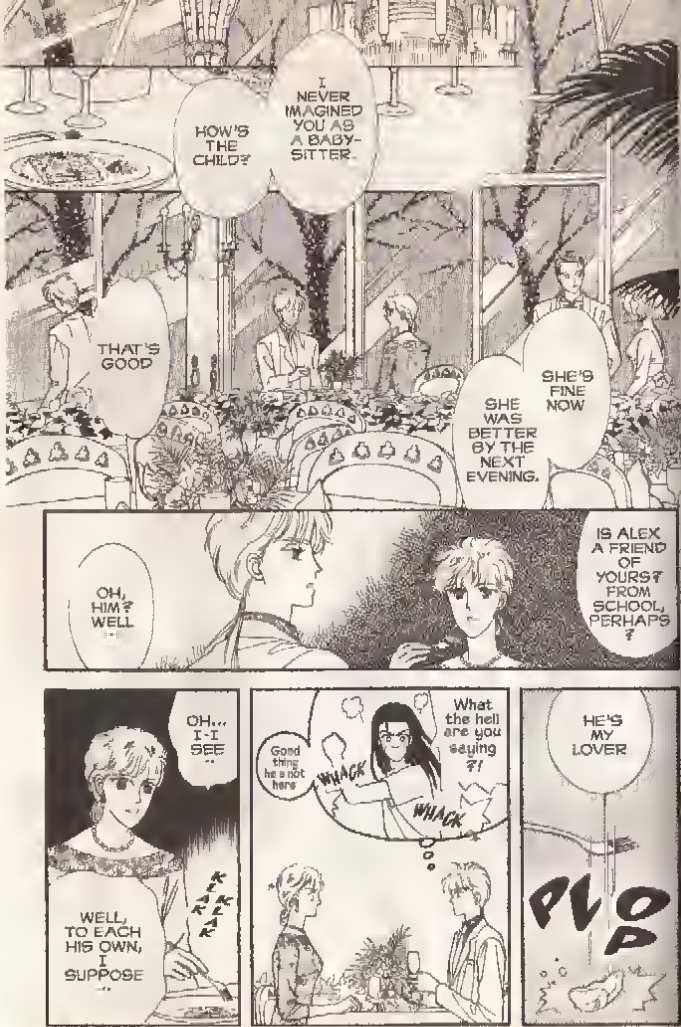
HOW'S THE CHILD?
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU AS A BABY-SITTER.
THAT'S GOOD
SHE WAS BETTER BY THE NEXT EVENING.
SHE'S FINE NOW
OH, HIM? WELL ..
IS ALEX A FRIEND OF YOURS? FROM SCHOOL, PERHAPS?
OH... I-I SEE ..
KI KI KE
WELL, TO EACH HIS OWN, I SUPPOSE ..
Good thing he's not here
What the hell are you saying?!
WHACK
WHACK
HE'S MY LOVER
PLOP

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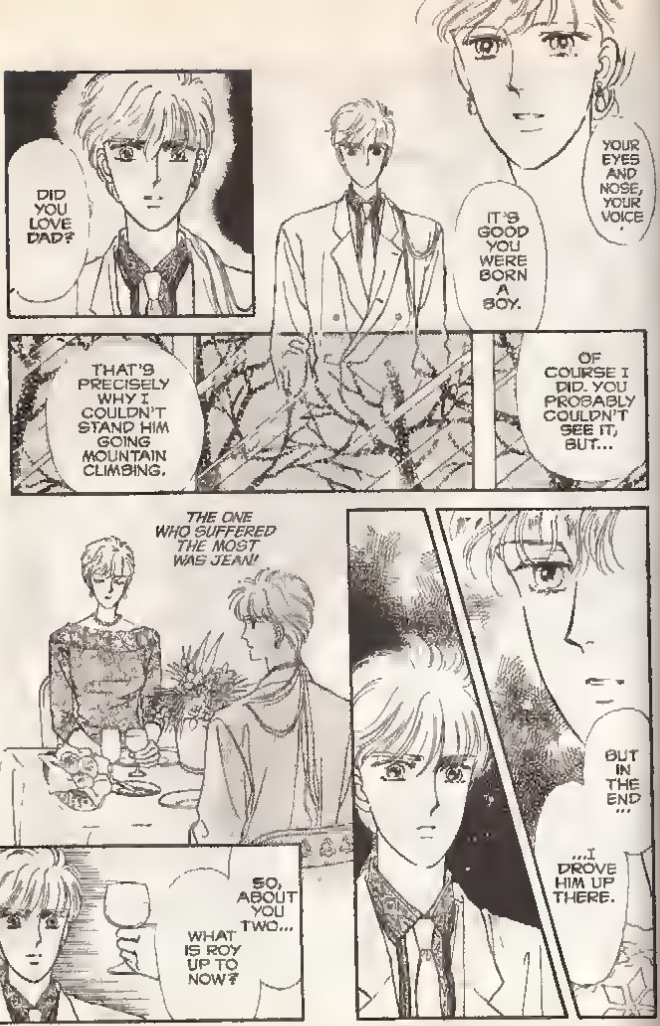
DID YOU LOVE DAD?
IT'S GOOD YOU WERE BORN A BOY.
YOUR EYES AND NOSE, YOUR VOICE
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I COULDN'T STAND HIM GOING MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.
OF COURSE I DID. YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T SEE IT, BUT...
THE ONE WHO SUFFERED THE MOST WAS JEAN!
SO, ABOUT YOU TWO... WHAT IS ROY UP TO NOW?
BUT IN THE END ...
...I DROVE HIM UP THERE.

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YOU TWO? LIVING SEPA-RATELY?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO LIVE GLUED TOGETHER FOREVER.
HE'S IN L.A., SO I DON'T HEAR FROM HIM MUCH.
HE'S JUST FINE.
YOU ALWAYS GAVE HIM OUR STRENGTH. IT WAS AS THOUGH ROY DIDN'T NEED ME AS A MOTHER.
.....
ROY WAS CUTER, WASN'T HE?
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

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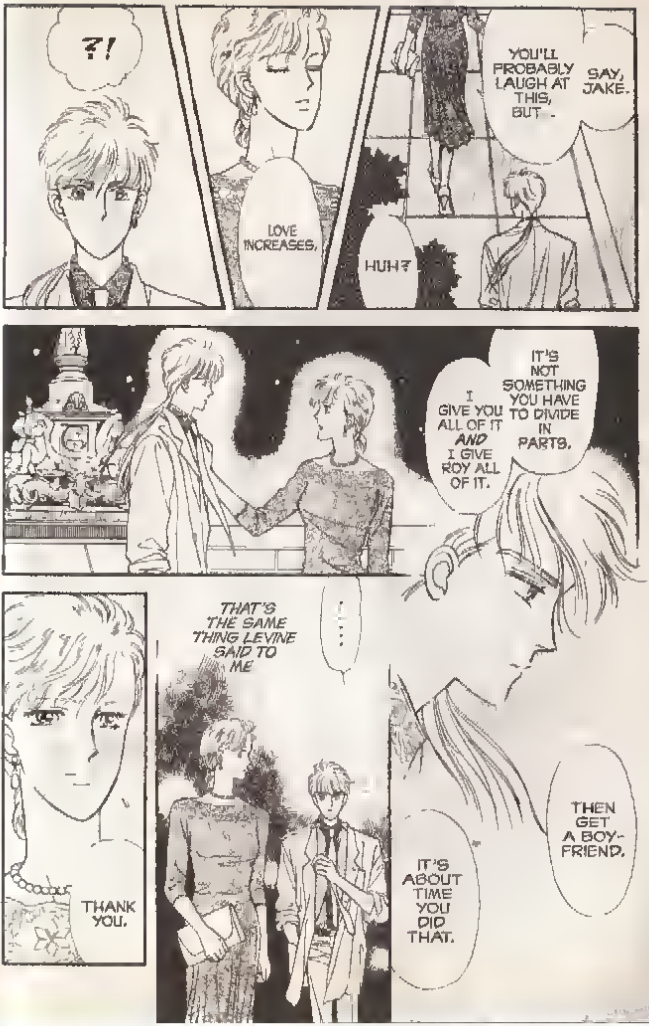
?!
LOVE INCREASES.
HUH?
YOU'LL PROBABLY LAUGH AT THIS, BUT...
SAY, JAKE.
I GIVE YOU ALL OF IT AND I GIVE ROY ALL OF IT.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DIVIDE IN PARTS.
THAT'S THE SAME THING LEVINE SAID TO ME
THANK YOU.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DID THAT.
THEN GET A BOY-FRIEND.

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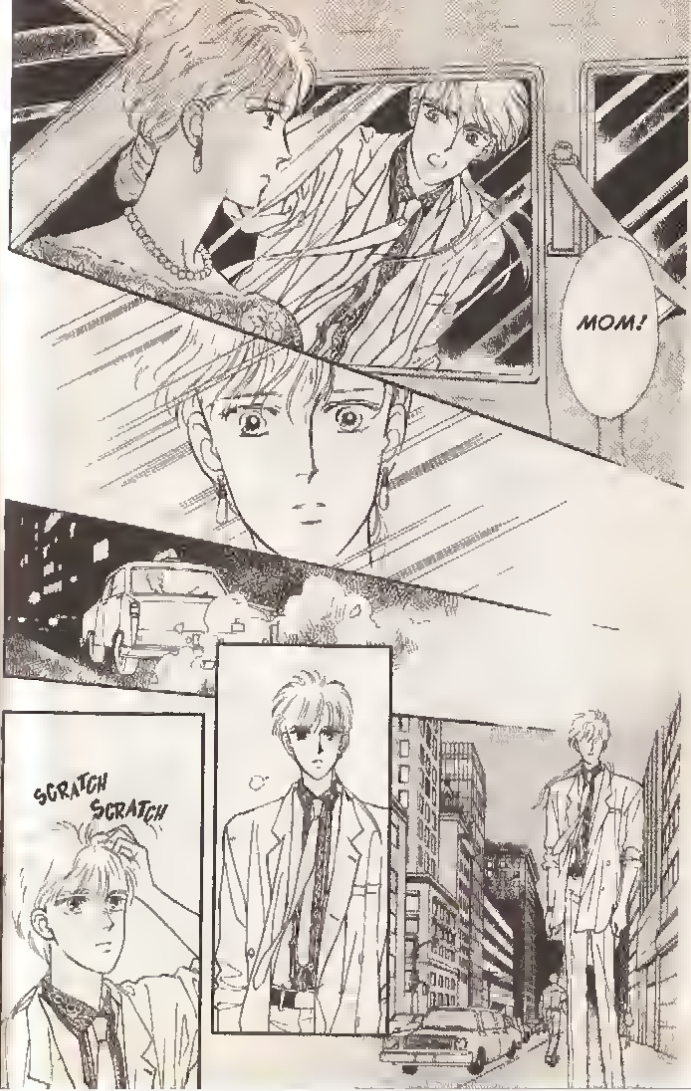

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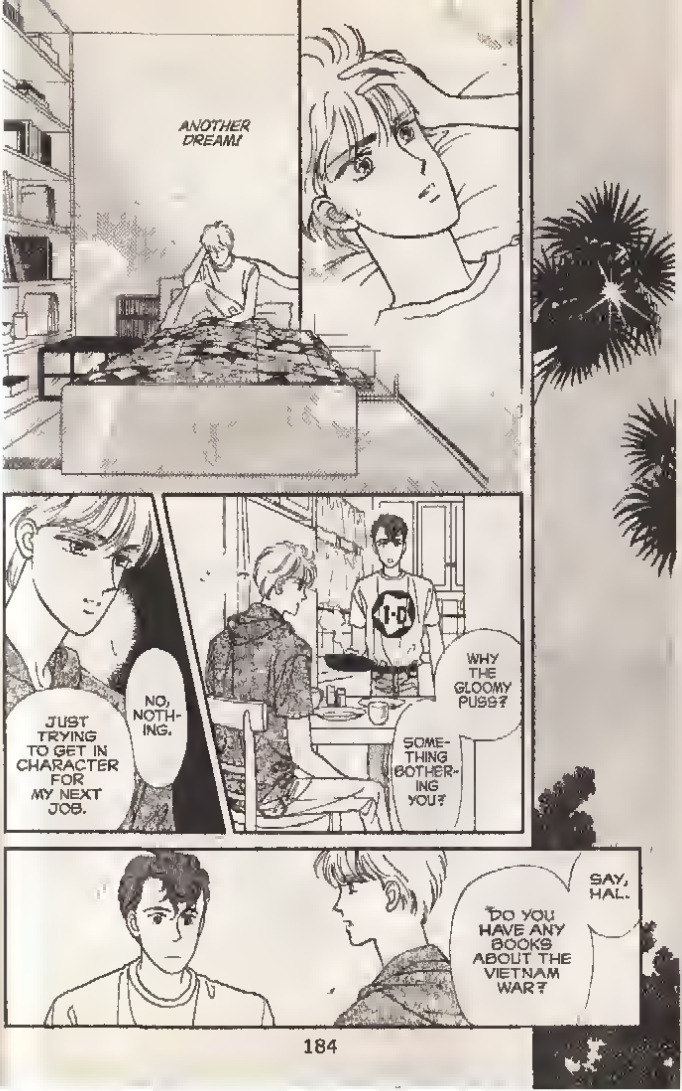
ANOTHER DREAM!
WHY THE GLOOMY PUSS?
SOME-THING BOTHER-ING YOU?
NO, NOTH-ING.
JUST TRYING TO GET IN CHARACTER FOR MY NEXT JOB.
SAY, HAL.
DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR?

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SINCE HE WAS A WRITER OF THAT PERIOD, HE ALSO TOUCHES ON VIETNAM A LITTLE BIT.
READ THE POST-SCRIPT IN THIS.
EAST OF EDEN I
EAST OF EDEN I
EAST OF EDEN I
SO THIS IS IT...
WHAT, WAR MOVIES?
NO, ABOUT THE AMERICA OF THAT PERIOD ...
THE AUTHOR STEINBECK DIED IN NEW YORK THE YEAR I WAS BORN.
STRANGE COINCIDENCE.
IN TRYING TO ESCAPE, I ENDED UP IN THE HOME GROUND.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SETTING FOR THE BOOK WAS THE AUTHOR'S HOME IN CALIFORNIA?
NO, I DIDN'T.

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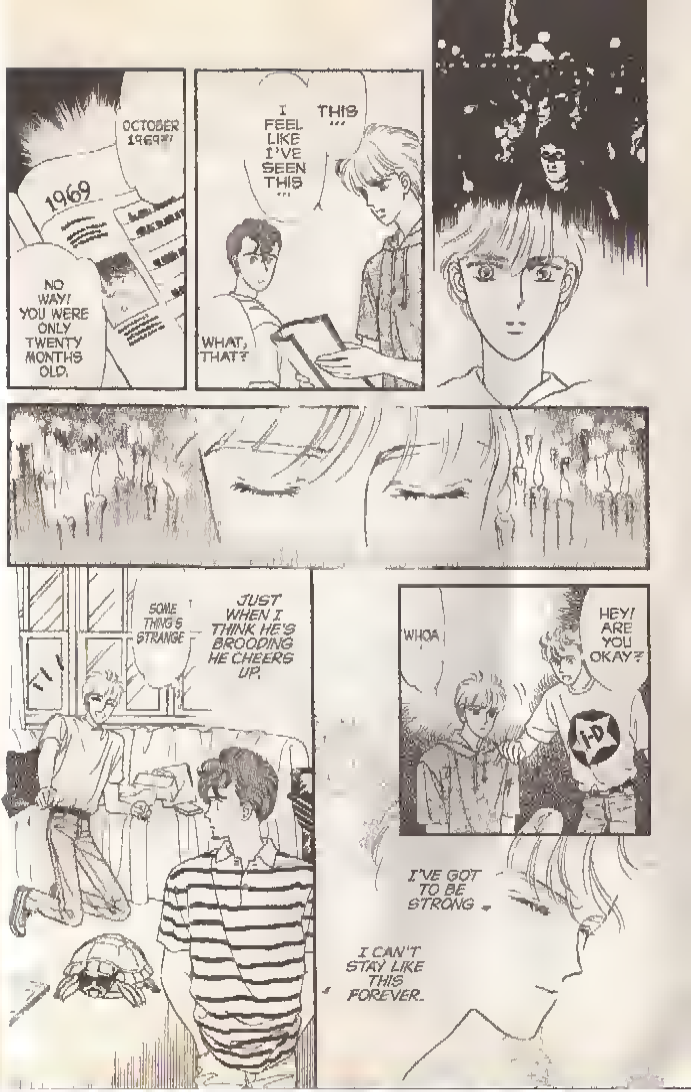
OCTOBER 1969?!
1969
NO WAY! YOU WERE ONLY TWENTY MONTHS OLD.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS ...!
THIS ...
WHAT, THAT?
SOME THING'S STRANGE
JUST WHEN I THINK HE'S BROODING HE CHEERS UP.
WHOA
HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'VE GOT TO BE STRONG.
I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.

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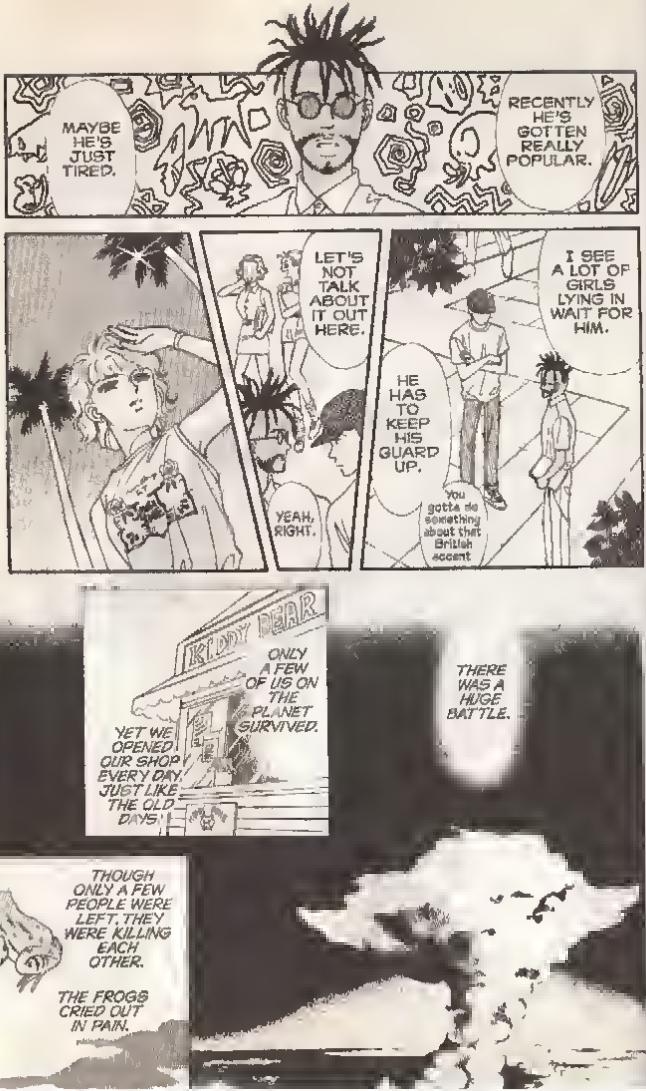
MAYBE HE'S JUST TIRED.
RECENTLY HE'S GOTTEN REALLY POPULAR.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT OUT HERE.
YEAH, RIGHT.
HE HAS TO KEEP HIS GUARD UP.
You gotta do something about that British accent
I SEE A LOT OF GIRLS LYING IN WAIT FOR HIM.
KIDDY BEAR
ONLY A FEW OF US ON THE PLANET SURVIVED.
YET WE OPENED OUR SHOP EVERY DAY, JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS.
THERE WAS A HUGE BATTLE.
THOUGH ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WERE LEFT, THEY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER.
THE FROGS CRIED OUT IN PAIN.

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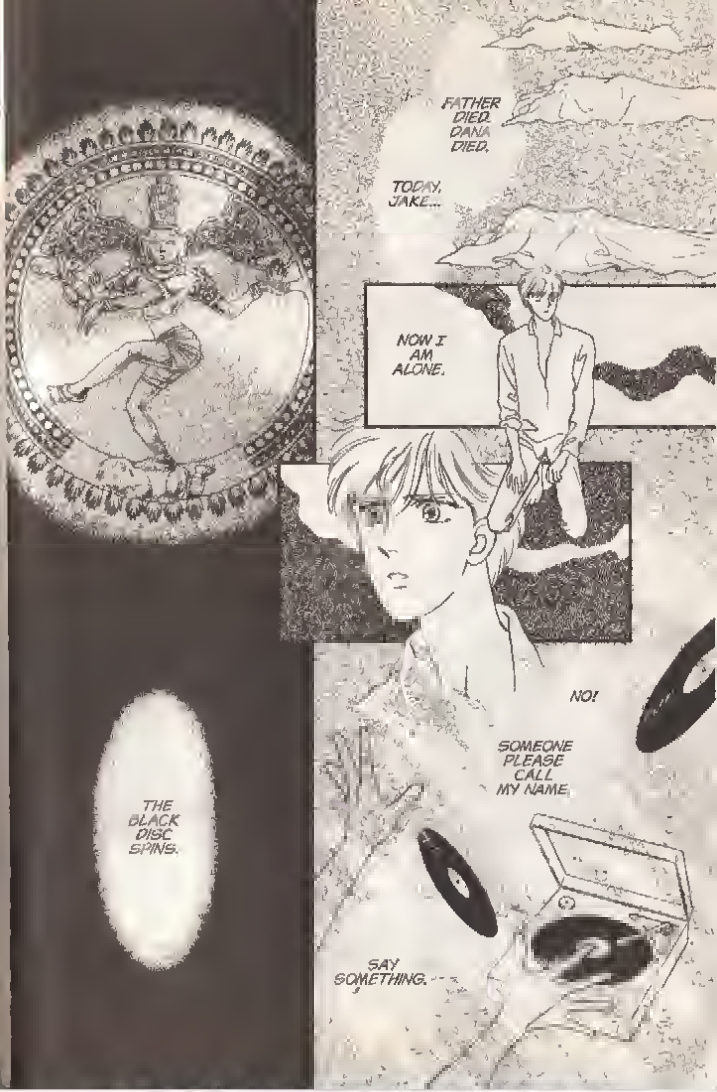

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HEY, ROY, YOUR AGENT IS ON THE PHONE.
THANKS
A DREAM...
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
LET'S BRING HER TO JAKE AND SURPRISE HIM.
DANA'S ACTUALLY ALIVE
ROY, YOU'VE GOT A MESSAGE FROM NEW YORK.
OH...

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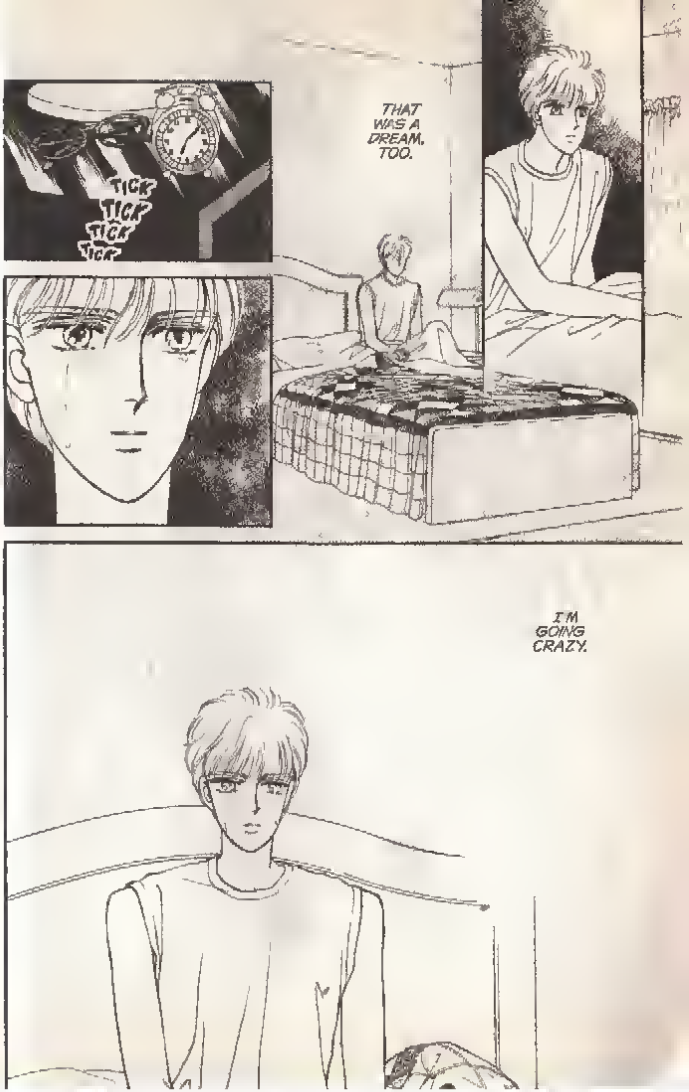

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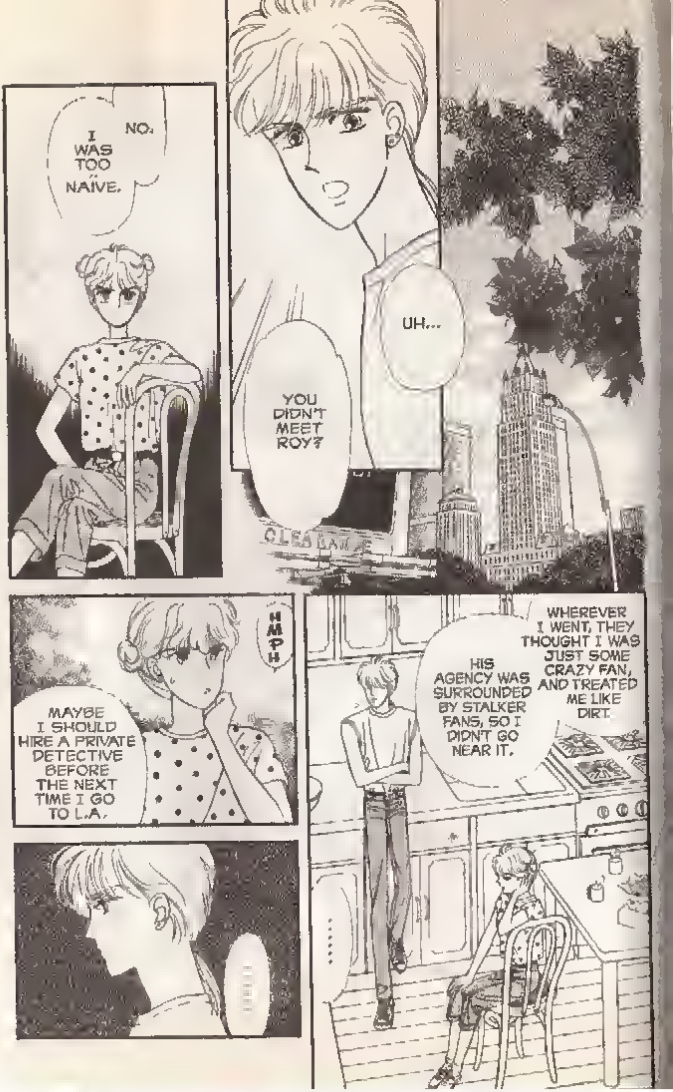
NO. I WAS TOO NAÏVE.
UH...
YOU DIDN'T MEET ROY?
HMPH
MAYBE I SHOULD HIRE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE BEFORE THE NEXT TIME I GO TO L.A.
WHEREVER I WENT, THEY THOUGHT I WAS JUST SOME CRAZY FAN, AND TREATED ME LIKE DIRT.
HIS AGENCY WAS SURROUNDED BY STALKER FANS, SO I DIDN'T GO NEAR IT.
.....

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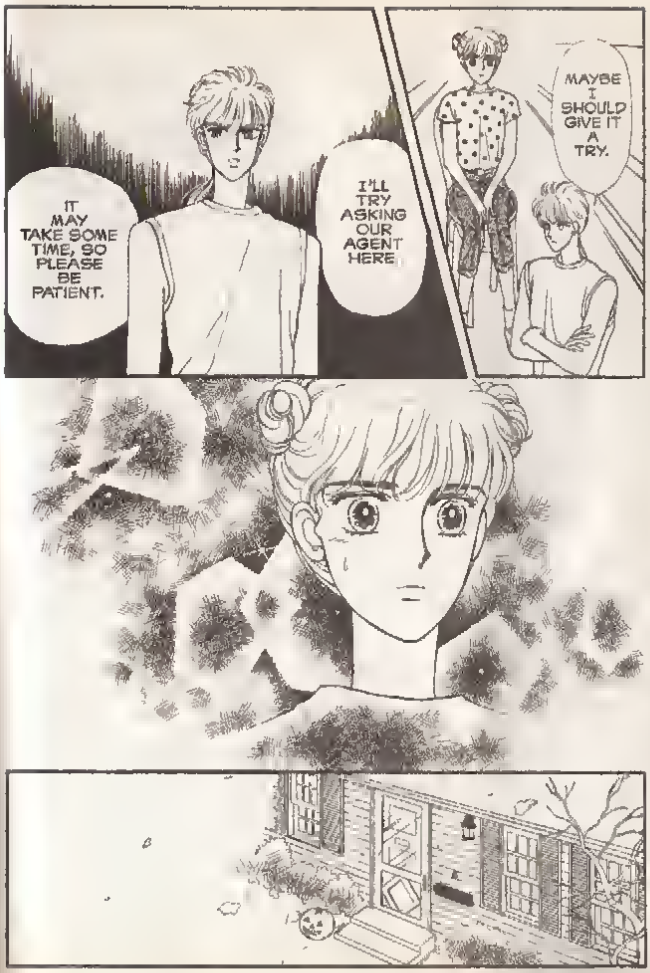

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DON'T MISS THE FINAL VOLUME COMING THIS APRIL!

CIPHER

Volume 11

By Minako Narita. After Anise visits L.A., Cipher follows her back to New York and makes a startling admission. Cipher and Siva attempt to make peace with their estranged mother, while Siva finds closure over the death of Dana through helping Big Momma. Meanwhile, the twins' possible reunion isn't necessarily making their respective new roommates all that happy. And will Anise ever be more than just Cipher's friend?

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